



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1992/66
23 June 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

Substantive session of 1992
29 June-31 July 1992
Item 16 of the provisional agenda*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 38/14 of 22 November 1983. In that resolution, the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to take charge, with the help of the Secretary-General, of coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Decade and of evaluating the activities undertaken. In paragraph 24 of resolution 46/85, the Assembly reiterated its request to the Council to submit to it, throughout the Decade, an annual report containing, *inter alia*, an enumeration of activities, a review and appraisal of those activities and its suggestions and recommendations.

The Council, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 1985/19, requested the Secretary-General to submit annual reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action. In paragraph 12 of resolution 1991/2, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in his report, to continue to pay special attention to the situation of migrant workers and their families.

The present report contains information on activities relating to the Second Decade carried out or planned within the United Nations system and information received from Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

* E/1992/100.

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Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 38/14, proclaimed the 10-year period beginning on 10 December 1983 the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Assembly also approved the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, which was annexed to the resolution, and called upon all States to cooperate in its implementation. The Assembly also requested the Economic and Social Council to take charge, with the help of the Secretary-General, of coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action and of evaluating the activities undertaken during the Second Decade.

2. The General Assembly, in paragraph 24 of its resolution 46/85, reiterated its request to the Council, throughout the period of the Second Decade, to submit annual reports to the General Assembly, containing, inter alia:

(a) An enumeration of the activities undertaken or contemplated to achieve the objectives of the Second Decade, including the activities of Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations;

(b) A review and appraisal of those activities;

(c) Its suggestions and recommendations.

3. The Economic and Social Council, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 1985/19, requested the Secretary-General to submit annual reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade and, in paragraph 14 of resolution 1988/6, also requested the Secretary-General to present, in his future annual reports, more detailed information on the relevant activities of all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

4. The Council, in paragraph 5 of its resolution 1991/2, requested the Secretary-General to continue with the implementation of the activities for the period 1990-1993 listed in the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/47, and also requested him to accord the highest priority to measures to combat apartheid. In paragraph 11 of the same resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to ensure the effective and immediate implementation of the activities proposed for the first half of the Decade that had not yet been undertaken and in paragraph 12 it also requested the Secretary-General to pay special attention in his reports to the situation of migrant workers and their families.

5. The present report is in response to the requests contained in paragraph 24 of General Assembly resolution 46/85, paragraph 6 of Council resolution 1985/19 and in paragraph 12 of resolution 1991/2. It is intended to assist the Council in fulfilling its responsibility to coordinate the activities of the Second Decade pursuant to Assembly resolution 38/14.

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6. In preparing the report, the Secretary-General sent communications (on 22 October 1991) to all Governments, the specialized agencies, concerned United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status. Those communications requested information of any action and decision taken to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Decade.

7. In the communications to Governments and organizations, the Secretary-General drew attention to the Assembly's strong appeal to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade.

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. General Assembly

8. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in connection with its consideration of the agenda item on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, had before it the report originally submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1991 (E/1991/39). In addition, the General Assembly had before it a note by the Coordinator of the activities of the United Nations for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/C.3/46/2).

9. After consideration of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/85 on 16 December 1991. In that resolution, the Assembly decided that the international community in general and the United Nations in particular should continue to give the highest priority to programmes for combating racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, and intensify their efforts, during the Second Decade, to provide assistance and relief to the victims of racism and all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid, especially in South Africa and in occupied territories and territories under alien domination. It appealed to all Governments and to international and non-governmental organizations to increase and intensify their activities to combat racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and to provide relief and assistance to the victims of those evils.

10. The Assembly took note of the reports submitted by the Secretary-General containing information on the activities of Governments, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as of United Nations organs, to give effect to the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

11. It also noted and commended the efforts made to coordinate all the programmes currently under implementation by the United Nations system relating to the objectives of the Decade and encouraged the Coordinator for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to continue his efforts.

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12. Furthermore, the Assembly welcomed the progress made in preparing model legislation for the guidance of Governments in the enactment of further legislation against racial discrimination and requested the Secretary-General to finalize the text of the model legislation and the handbook of recourse procedures for victims of racial discrimination and to publish and distribute those texts as soon as possible. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue the study on the effects of racial discrimination on the children of minorities, in particular those of migrant workers, in the field of education, training and employment, and to submit, inter alia, specific recommendations for the implementation of measures to combat the effects of such discrimination.

13. The Assembly also called for the implementation of the activities scheduled for the Second Decade and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the necessary and additional resources were included in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 for the implementation of the activities of the Second Decade.

14. The Assembly further considered that voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination were indispensable for the implementation of the programme and it strongly appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to that Trust Fund.

B. Centre Against Apartheid and the Special
Committee against Apartheid

15. The Centre Against Apartheid reports that during 1991, overall progress was made in South Africa in the process of ending apartheid and towards negotiations on a new constitution. The repeal of major apartheid laws was a most notable development although little has been done to give practical effect to the repeal. A serious obstacle to the exercise of free political activity remained the persistent violence, which has become a destabilizing factor in the present process and could affect the future of a democratic South Africa.

16. The persistence of profound socio-economic inequalities can also affect negatively the current process towards negotiations. In this connection, the Special Committee believes that a unified and comprehensive policy of economic restitution is necessary to address urgently the serious socio-economic inequalities. Most political parties, movements and other organizations concerned agree that the mere repeal of major apartheid laws will not significantly alleviate the injustices inflicted by apartheid on the black population. The South African Chamber of Business has underlined, in that context, that poverty stands in the way of democracy in South Africa. Therefore, concerted efforts will be needed to remove the most glaring areas of unequal opportunity and treatment as soon as possible.

17. In that context, the Special Committee against Apartheid initiated proposals to the General Assembly on its policies towards South Africa, which were reflected in resolutions adopted at the resumed forty-fifth and the forty-sixth sessions. It continued to monitor and analyse the important developments taking place in South Africa and the response of the international community.

18. The Special Committee continued to exert every effort to preserve and strengthen the international consensus on the issue of apartheid. This consensus has been a significant factor in the success of the current political process.

19. The Special Committee will continue to encourage through all available means the ongoing process of broad-based negotiations on the establishment of a non-racial, multi-party democracy in South Africa and to assist in keeping the negotiations on track.

20. The Centre Against Apartheid is also assisting the Secretary-General in forging a concerted approach by all offices and agencies of the United Nations towards South Africa.

21. On 7 June 1991, the Special Committee issued an interim report (A/AC.115/L.675) in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/176 A of 19 December 1990. The report covers developments in South Africa during the first half of 1991. It assessed South Africa's compliance with the 1989 Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa which sets out the steps that the South African regime should take in order to create the necessary climate for negotiations.

22. On 13 September 1991 the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the second progress report (A/45/1052) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa and adopted a consensus decision (45/457 B) requesting the Secretary-General to continue to promote all efforts leading to the eradication of apartheid through genuine negotiations and to submit a further report during 1992 on the implementation of the Declaration. In his report, the Secretary-General stated that the progress leading to the end of apartheid in South Africa, although halting, remained on course. The Secretary-General called for encouragement, pressure and assistance by the international community. The Secretary-General also stressed the broad consensus which had emerged on the need for human rights to be protected in a democratic South Africa and observed that, in that connection, the ratification of the International Covenants on Human Rights could be a significant step.

23. The Special Committee availed itself of many opportunities to draw the attention of the international community to the situation in South Africa. It also organized visits, meetings and events to encourage and generate support, moral as well as material, to anti-apartheid forces and to victims of apartheid.

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24. In its activities, the Special Committee has followed a two-pronged approach to the process in South Africa: it has stressed the need to maintain appropriate pressure on the regime and to provide assistance to the democratic forces and to the victims of apartheid in South Africa. In this context, the anti-apartheid movements and other such organizations have supported the Special Committee's approach, continued to campaign for the maintenance of pressure and begun to explore initiatives to assist positively the present process and the future of a democratic South Africa.

25. The Special Committee organized the Symposium on Cultural and Academic Links with South Africa in Los Angeles in May 1991, in cooperation with the Mayor and City Council of Los Angeles, the Screen Actors' Guild of America and the Directors' Guild of America. The participants adopted a statement stressing the need to maintain appropriate pressure on Pretoria, to strengthen cultural and academic contacts aimed at undermining apartheid and to assist the culture of resistance against apartheid. The Symposium also provided the representatives of South African organizations the opportunity to meet with members of the United States entertainment industry and to discuss and plan with them various means of assistance to the anti-apartheid cultural structures in South Africa.

26. The Special Committee co-sponsored the International Conference on Eastern Europe and South Africa: Supporting Democracy and Development, which was organized by the Association of West European Parliamentarians for Action against Apartheid and the African-European Institute. The Conference was held in Prague from 13 to 15 June 1991 and was hosted by the Federal Assembly and the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. The Special Committee participated in the opening session and in the working session on "South Africa in Transition". The Chairman of the Special Committee called on Eastern European countries to proceed with caution in their relations with South Africa and not to abandon the policy of pressure required for the speedy end of apartheid.

27. The Special Committee organized, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, the International Conference on the Educational Needs of the Victims of Apartheid in South Africa in Paris from 25 to 27 June 1991. Over 100 participants, including South African experts and representatives of donor countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, discussed issues related to education, human resources development and bilateral and multilateral programmes of scholarship assistance. While calling on the South African authorities to address fully and urgently the quantitative and qualitative components of the education crisis and to take appropriate measures to overcome inequities created by apartheid, the Conference also included concrete measures of assistance to be taken by the international community to support initiatives for the transformation of education in South Africa and the establishment of educational priorities for the period ahead.

28. The Special Committee and the Centre Against Apartheid held consultations with non-governmental organizations and anti-apartheid movements in Geneva on 4 and 5 November 1991. Representatives of 46 national and international organizations analysed in depth recent developments in South Africa, reviewed their activities and role in support of the ongoing political process in that country, and assessed the impact of sanctions and their future. At the end of the consultations, the participants adopted a statement of action, in which they agreed that pressure through sanctions should be maintained on Pretoria and any adjustment should be concomitant with the establishment of an interim transitional authority and an agreement on a new constitution. They also called on the international community to provide support to the national liberation movements and all those struggling to secure the democratic transformation of South Africa.

29. The Special Committee held two hearings with South Africans. On 1 March 1991, it heard seven South African legal experts on the situation of human rights in the country. On 9 April 1991, the Special Committee was addressed by South African academic experts who described the inequities of apartheid education and emphasized discrepancies in funding, the inadequate preparations of black students in mathematics, the sciences and technical disciplines, and the challenges of educational reform within the current political context of South Africa.

30. Throughout the period under review, the Special Committee continued to monitor measures undertaken by Governments against South Africa and deplored the decisions of those Governments which unilaterally suspended or lifted, partially or in their entirety, sanctions against the apartheid regime. It also underlined that the relaxation of sanctions at this critical stage was unwarranted and premature because conditions for negotiations in a peaceful environment in South Africa had not yet been established.

31. In April, June and July 1991, the Special Committee, reacting to decisions taken by international sports bodies allowing South Africa to participate in the Olympic games, reiterated its view that such decision would be premature and would undermine an important component of the international strategy against apartheid. The International Olympic Committee was called upon to cooperate with the Special Committee and the Commission against Apartheid in Sports to act in a concerted and comprehensive manner until all sports organizations and federations in South Africa, as well as all sports activities and facilities had become non-racial.

32. The Special Committee observed International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March), International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (Soweto Day - 16 June), International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa (9 August) and the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners (11 October). Prominent individuals were guest speakers at those observances.

33. The Special Committee also participated in, contributed to and supported projects, conferences, seminars and other events undertaken by

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non-governmental and anti-apartheid organizations. While disseminating information on the situation in South Africa and building popular support for the current process of change in that country, these non-governmental organizations helped to deepen the public's understanding of the provisions of the Declaration and the urgent need for Governments to adhere to the Programme of Action.

34. In this regard, the Special Committee updated and supported the travelling exhibits on apartheid. Representatives of the Special Committee and of the Centre were present at the opening of the exhibit at Buenos Aires in May 1991, in Berlin in November 1991 and in Santa Fe de Bogota in September 1991. They participated in round-table discussions on the subject of apartheid organized in tandem with the displays. The travelling exhibit was also shown during this period in Amsterdam, London, Havana, Lima, Rome and Geneva.

35. The Secretary-General sent an observer delegation to the first plenary session of the Consultation for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) in Johannesburg, South Africa (20-21 December 1991). This delegation was composed of Ms. Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Gambari (Nigeria), Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid and Mr. Mesouris, Assistant Secretary-General for the Centre Against Apartheid. The delegation gave a press conference and met with the leaders of major political parties and organizations as well as with Mr. De Klerk. A common statement by the international observers, including the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the non-aligned countries and the Commonwealth, was issued.

C. Commission on Human Rights

36. The Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-eighth session, considered the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and had before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1992/39), in accordance with Commission resolution 1991/11.

37. The Commission adopted, without a vote, resolution 1992/8 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade in which it invited all Governments and international and non-governmental organizations to increase and intensify their activities to combat racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and to provide relief and assistance to the victims of those evils, and strongly appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

38. The Commission recalled its resolution 1991/11 of 22 February 1991, in which it decided that the topic for its thematic consideration in 1992 would be "Treatment of political prisoners and detainees in South Africa,

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particularly women and children" and decided that the topic for 1993 would be "Global study on the extent of dissemination of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination".

39. The Commission took note of the report of the Meeting of Experts to review the experience of countries in the operation of schemes of internal self-government for indigenous peoples (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/42 and Add.1) which took place at Nuuk, Greenland, from 24 to 28 September 1991.

40. In the same resolution, the Commission welcomed the publication of the Global Compilation of National Legislation against Racism and Racial Discrimination (HR/PUB/1990/8) and requested the Secretary-General to transmit it to Governments as soon as possible. The Commission also welcomed the progress made in preparing model legislation against racial discrimination and requested the Secretary-General to finalize the text of the model legislation and the handbook of recourse procedures for victims of racial discrimination and to publish and distribute those texts as soon as possible.

41. In the above-mentioned resolution, the Commission also expressed its conviction of the need for the General Assembly to proclaim in 1993 a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination, as a means of intensifying international efforts in this field.

42. In addition to its specific consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, the Commission, at its forty-eighth session, dealt with other topics having direct bearing on the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. The question of violations of human rights in southern Africa was one such subject, which the Commission considered in particular in relation to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on southern Africa (E/CN.4/1992/8), as well as a note by the Secretary-General (A/46/401). The Commission adopted resolution 1992/19 entitled "Situation of human rights in South Africa" in which it commended the signatories of the National Peace Accord aimed at combating political violence and the efforts by all parties to promote a congenial atmosphere to permit the holding of broad-based peaceful negotiations on the dismantling of apartheid; and welcomed the convening of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa to lay the groundwork for drafting a non-racial, democratic constitution and forming an interim government.

43. The Commission also expressed its concern at the escalation of violence in townships with the alleged complicity of elements of security organs and its attendant threat to the right to life, at the failure to resolve to the satisfaction of all parties the issue of political prisoners and at continuing reports of deaths in detention and police custody.

44. The Commission also dealt with the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist and colonialist regime in South Africa. In that connection, the Commission had before it an updated report by the Special

Rapporteur of the Subcommittee (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/13 and Add.1). Resolution 1992/20 was adopted on this matter, and draft resolution 1992/7 was recommended for adoption by the Council.

45. Furthermore, the Commission dealt with the question of measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers, and in that connection, it had before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1992/38) on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The Commission adopted resolution 1992/81 on this matter.

D. Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities

46. At its forty-third session (5-30 August 1991), the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities discussed a number of matters relating to the Second Decade. In its resolution 1991/2, entitled "Measures to combat racism and racial discrimination and the role of the Subcommittee" of 20 August 1991, the Subcommittee recommended that the General Assembly take appropriate steps in due course to launch a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination, to begin in 1993. The Subcommittee emphasized the obligation of the international community to take urgent measures to eradicate apartheid completely and to combat all other forms of racism and racial discrimination, including those practised against indigenous peoples, migrant workers and other vulnerable groups in society; it confirmed the importance, in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, of a complementarity of economic, social, educational and information measures at the national level, including legislative, administrative and penal measures, and of measures taken at the international level.

47. The Subcommittee, in that resolution, recognized the important role it could play in United Nations activities against racial discrimination, as well as the need for more effective coordination between the Centre for Human Rights and the organizations of the United Nations system which undertake operational activities for development. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation the holding of a joint meeting of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Subcommittee during the forty-third session of the Subcommittee; welcomed the efforts of the Committee to fulfil its mandate; and recognized the importance of activities aimed at directly assisting vulnerable groups to strengthen their participation in national economic, social and political life. It also appealed to all Governments to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

48. The Subcommittee renewed its request to the Secretary-General to prepare for its next session an overview of current trends of racism, discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia, as well as of measures taken by Governments against those phenomena and the effects of such measures, on the basis of

replies received from Governments, specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

49. Further, the Secretary-General was requested to submit to the Subcommission at its next session a report on serious incidents attributable to racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia that took place in any part of the world, including the measures taken by the Governments concerned in response to those incidents. Finally, the Subcommission expressed its deep conviction that a special rapporteur of the Subcommission should be appointed to update the study on racial discrimination prepared in 1976 by Mr. Hernán Santa Cruz, in the light of recent new trends of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in many countries of the world.

E. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

50. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination continued to discuss the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination at its thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions, held at Geneva, from 4 to 22 March and from 5 to 23 August 1991 respectively. During these sessions, the Committee considered matters relating to a proposed third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination, the World Conference on Human Rights (1993) and draft model legislation against racism and racial discrimination which had been prepared by the Secretary-General. The Committee noted that an important focus of the Second Decade was the implementation of the Convention, which had the largest number of States parties of any United Nations human rights treaty but which was still not universal, and it adopted a decision calling on the General Assembly to encourage those States which had not yet done so to become parties to the Convention.

Joint meeting with the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

51. A joint meeting between the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities was held on 19 August 1991 for the exchange of views on the prevention of racial discrimination and discussion of issues of common interest. Also discussed at that meeting was the possibility of a joint contribution to the World Conference on Human Rights. The possibility of such a joint meeting had been raised with the Committee and Subcommission by the Coordinator for the Second Decade in order to explore ways of improving the effectiveness of United Nations action against racism and racial discrimination.

52. During the joint meeting, it was suggested that, with regard to the World Conference, a permanent mechanism should be established for consultation between the two bodies and that joint recommendations should be drafted. Emphasis could be placed on improving the implementation of existing international standards and the strengthening of monitoring bodies.

53. The following items from the agenda of the Subcommission were identified as subjects of future consultation between the two bodies: measures to combat racism and racial discrimination and the role of the Subcommission; adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist and colonialist regime of South Africa; question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories; report of the Subcommission under Commission on Human Rights resolution 8 (XXIII); discrimination against indigenous peoples; and the protection of minorities.

54. Members of both bodies emphasized that joint meetings were important steps towards more effective action by the United Nations against racial discrimination and towards better cooperation and coordination of activities of the two human rights organs, whose activities were complementary although their mandates were different. It was decided that the bureaux of the two bodies would remain in contact and make recommendations for future collaboration and that each body would nominate a member to follow and report to it on the activities of the other body.

World Conference on Human Rights

55. The World Conference on Human Rights (1993) was another subject which drew the attention of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination during its last two sessions. A number of proposals were advanced during the discussions, including the need to put a specific item on racial discrimination on the agenda of the Conference and to prepare relevant studies; the possibility that the Committee might contribute a paper evaluating racial discrimination at the national and international levels; and the feasibility of preparing a paper on the effectiveness of recourse procedures and mechanisms with special reference to the efforts to eliminate racism and racial discrimination. The recommendations of the Committee were brought to the attention of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference and were reflected in the latter's report to the General Assembly (A/46/18).

Third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination

56. The Committee also considered the question of a third decade against racial discrimination which had been proposed to the General Assembly. The Coordinator for United Nations Decade-related activities had suggested that the Committee might wish to consider suggestions for inclusion in a possible programme of action for a third decade. At its fortieth session, a paper on this subject was discussed; it will be revised in the light of members' comments for consideration at the forty-first session scheduled for June 1992.

F. Division for the Advancement of Women

57. The Division for the Advancement of Women reports that under the programme of advisory services, it hosted a United Nations Fellow from South Africa for training in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other aspects of the development of a new non-racial non-sexist constitution.

G. Department of Public Information

58. During 1990 and 1991, the Department of Public Information (DPI) continued to promote the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa. This was primarily carried out through the promotion campaign built around the photo exhibit jointly produced by the Centre Against Apartheid and the Department under the title "Apartheid South Africa Travelling Exhibit".

59. In the light of the rapidly changing situation in South Africa, the photo exhibit has been constantly updated to reflect new developments. The photo exhibit and its different language versions (English, French, Spanish and German) was shown in Argentina, Austria, Colombia, Cuba, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland. The exhibit is currently being shown in Canada, Chile, Peru, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

60. Promotional activities, including seminars, dissemination of brochures and other information material, and press conference were carried out through United Nations information centres and services at the time of the showing of the exhibit, to reinforce the message conveyed through the exhibit and embodied in the Declaration.

61. Two special briefings for the 1,500 non-governmental organizations affiliated with the United Nations were held during 1990 and 1991, and four videos on the issue of apartheid were shown. During this period there were six mailings of DPI publications on the issue of apartheid to the non-governmental organizations. Two World Chronicle television programmes were produced, featuring the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, Mr. Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria, addressing the topic "Recent developments in South Africa" and the Assistant Secretary-General for the Centre Against Apartheid, Mr. Sotirios Mousouris, addressing the issue "The United Nations and apartheid".

62. In addition, during 1990-1991 the Department widely distributed the seven-language versions of the poster "For a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa" which it had produced on the occasion of 21 March, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The postcard version of the poster, also produced in seven languages, was widely distributed.

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63. In consultation with the Centre Against Apartheid, the Department continued to promote the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa by publicizing the 1990 and 1991 reports of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration.

64. The Department in its multimedia approach to the dissemination of information, provided television, press, photographic and radio coverage of the meetings of the Special Committee against Apartheid and the Centre Against Apartheid. A total of 200 press releases were issued in English and French on the issue of apartheid. During the period 1990-1991, the Department produced 2,290 radio documentary feature programmes in English, Afrikaans, Sesotho, Setswana, Xhosa and Zulu. The programmes were sent to radio stations whose transmissions can be heard in South Africa and neighbouring countries and to stations in other parts of the world.

65. During the 1992-1993 biennium, the Department is planning the following activities in relation to the issue of apartheid:

(a) Publication of an updated version of the Secretary-General's report on apartheid to provide accurate information on the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa;

(b) Production of an information kit on the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa. The kit will use the most recent information to describe and analyse the evolution of the situation in South Africa in the light of the objective set by the international community of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa. The kit will be produced to coincide with a special event, such as an international conference or a special session of the General Assembly;

(c) Production of two feature articles, one in 1992 and the other in 1993, which will highlight major developments in the dismantling of the apartheid system. The articles will be offered to the media throughout the world;

(d) Production and dissemination of press releases, pamphlets and feature articles on the situation in South Africa, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The information material will be disseminated particularly throughout United Nations information centres and services;

(e) Production in English of a series of 164 radio documentary feature programmes on various aspects of the struggle against apartheid and of 164 current affairs magazine programmes on the latest developments at the United Nations which concern southern Africa. Each of the programmes in these two series will be adapted into Afrikaans, Sesotho, Xhosa and Zulu. The programmes will be distributed on open-reel tapes and audio cassettes to radio organizations whose transmissions can be heard in South Africa and neighbouring countries, and to radio organizations in other parts of the world;

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(f) Production of "Southern Africa News", a weekly five-minute news bulletin that highlights developments in the struggle against apartheid and other issues concerning southern Africa, to be distributed via telephone circuit to radio stations in southern Africa;

(g) Organization of an encounter between senior journalists and a panel of eminent experts from South Africa and elsewhere to discuss developments in the country in the light of the goal set by the international community of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa.

H. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

66. In the period under review, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) participated in the seminar on "Political, historical, economic, social and cultural factors contributing to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid" which took place at the United Nations Office in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 1990. The Office maintains the view that racism and racial discrimination not only affect the treatment of refugees in the countries of asylum but are also underlying causes of refugee flows, rejection at frontiers and denial of asylum. They continue to be a matter of great concern to UNHCR which fully supports the endeavours to combat racism and racial discrimination in refugee matters.

67. In keeping with its mandate, UNHCR has continued to implement various programmes of international protection and assistance on behalf of refugees who, by definition, have been victims of persecution or human rights violations in different parts of the world.

68. UNHCR has also organized and will be carrying out over a 12-month period a programme of voluntary repatriation for South African refugees and exiles. In this regard, UNHCR and the South African Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 4 September 1991, setting out the respective obligations of each party. The assistance, to be given to an estimated 30,000 returnees, will include providing for their basic needs as well as their reintegration requirements. In addition, UNHCR, along with other United Nations agencies, is committed to creating community-based development projects which will benefit the returnees as well as the resident population.

I. International Law Commission

69. Within the framework of its ongoing work on the elaboration of a draft code of crimes against the peace and security of mankind, the International Law Commission has included in the list of crimes falling under the code genocide, apartheid and systematic or mass violations of human rights (articles 19, 20 and 21). The complete text of the draft (see A/46/10) was adopted on first reading by the International Law Commission at its last session in 1991. The draft code will undergo a second reading in 1993 or 1994 in the light of the comments of Governments. It will then be submitted to the General Assembly which will decide on what action is to be taken.

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J. United Nations Development Programme

70. The response of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to developments in South Africa is based on its mandate and its ongoing cooperation with the national liberation movements (NLMs) recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU). UNDP is guided by the Declaration on Apartheid contained in General Assembly resolution S-16/1 as well as resolutions 44/244 and 45/176 A. These resolutions, while advocating the continuation of sanctions, also appeal to the international community, including the United Nations system, to increase economic, humanitarian and other assistance to the victims of apartheid. The Secretary-General was requested to ensure the coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in this regard.

71. Like other United Nations agencies, UNDP has no official mandate to support operational activities within South Africa. Therefore, UNDP has limited its involvement to externally based projects to assist the NLMs since 1974. The Special Assistance Programme for NLMs continues to be implemented in close collaboration and with the endorsement of the Liberation Committee of OAU in Dar es Salaam. The ongoing programme for 1987-1991 includes over 30 projects with a total funding of US\$ 17 million. More than two thirds of this is allocated to projects in training and education. In June 1990, the Governing Council allocated an additional US\$ 12 million to continue the NLM programme during the fifth programming cycle (1992-1996). The development priorities for the new cycle are expected to continue to emphasize the need for human resources development and basic education. When the programme for the fifth cycle will be drafted the results of the assessment of prior experiences will be a guiding factor. The priorities would have to be adjusted to accord with the new needs assessment for assistance in South Africa. At the same time the new programme should include a schedule for phasing out the outgoing NLM assistance and phasing in a transition programme.

72. Since the Secretary-General's visit to South Africa in September 1989, which was followed by the mission of the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Farah, to South Africa in early 1990, several South African groups have approached UNDP and other United Nations organizations, such as the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Bank, to discuss technical cooperation and other measures that could support a prospective transitional effort. The approaches to UNDP, which have always been informal, were made by, amongst others, officials from the Government of South Africa, universities, non-governmental organizations and the Development Bank of Southern Africa as well as other private sector entities. The South African Government was particularly interested in learning about UNDP's operational activities and experience in the development field. These contacts are, of course, additional to UNDP's ongoing dialogue with the African National Congress (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) on the need to identify strategies that could strengthen and expand the human resource capacities within the black community.

73. As a first step in preparing for the emerging situation and following the visit of the mission dispatched by the Secretary-General in summer 1990, the UNDP Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) made unofficial visits to South Africa, in order to get a sense in situ of the major social and political changes in the country and find out the attitudes and thinking of the various parties directly involved in the dismantling of the apartheid system and the building of a multi-racial democracy.

74. In February 1991 UNDP/RBA fielded a mission to southern Africa and Europe to hold informal consultations with NLMs, prospective training institutions and selected United Nations technical agencies concerning future technical cooperation initiatives in a post-apartheid South Africa. Simultaneously, (5-8 February 1991) UNDP was represented at the African National Congress Donors Conference in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. The conference had been called by ANC to inform existing and potential donors about ANC's approach to political organization and community development. Key priorities within a wide range of sectors were mapped out. The conference was attended by 150 delegates with one third coming from the ranks of ANC, its allies and other segments of the South African liberation movement. Following this conference, another meeting took place among OAU, UNDP, ANC and PAC to discuss the fifth cycle Special Programme for the NLMs. UNDP/RBA has further exchanged views with the World Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat on possible coordinated approaches to the changing situation in South Africa.

75. Based on the above contacts and discussions within RBA, ideas are emerging which would form the basis of a UNDP action plan/strategy on South Africa. The following paragraphs deals with those ideas.

76. UNDP should not move beyond the legal parameters of the existing resolutions of the General Assembly and those of OAU until these resolutions have been rescinded. Within the framework of a coordinated approach by the United Nations system, it is proposed that consultations should be held with the United Nations Secretariat in order to determine those conditions under which the United Nations system could assist the internal victims of apartheid.

77. UNDP should continue to implement the ongoing technical assistance programme for NLMs with no substantive change. However, it is suggested that a schedule of phasing out of the ongoing programme be included in the fifth cycle Special Assistance Programme and a transition programme be provided for. At the same time, a dialogue should be initiated with other United Nations agencies to launch a series of needs assessment analyses in the education, health, training, housing, employment and small enterprises sectors. In the short/medium term there is a clear need to build capacity in general development strategies and options, social and economic reconstruction, public business management, support to small- and medium-scale enterprises promotion and development, and an immediate need to focus on teacher training.

78. In this connection, it is suggested that the results of the ongoing activities of some international agencies should be noted and analysed. These include consultancies in economic, social and scientific aspects and assessments of human development needs, undertaken by the World Bank and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation. UNDP should also assist in identifying key sectoral issues in a parallel exercise which could expand into a shadow programme. UNDP should establish a trust fund to mobilize additional donor resources. It has been proposed to the NLMs and OAU that the core for such a trust fund could be established by setting aside part of the fifth cycle NLM indicative planning figure (IPF) funds. The idea is to generate donor interest towards the proposed trust fund by allocating the UNDP contribution as a catalyst for other sources. The proposal was, in principle, accepted by OAU and the two liberation movements.

79. Regional issues should also be taken into account in formulating the UNDP strategy on assistance to South Africa. The democratization process will have an impact on labour migration, the regional trade balance, the employment situation in the neighbouring countries, regional economic and educational cooperation and the coordination of transport systems, among others. This is linked to the question of South Africa's relations with such subregional organizations as the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States and the Southern African Development Coordination Conference. UNDP should support those organizations as appropriate to plan for greater economic cooperation and integration in a post-apartheid South Africa.

80. In order to advance the needs assessment process, UNDP proposed to help establish an information exchange mechanism composed of a small core group of development partners: the United Nations Centre Against Apartheid, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the European Economic Community. This informal consortium could undertake planning of future human resource capacity requirements with the participation of representatives of some South African groups and help shape a consensus on technical cooperation responses appropriate to the South African milieu. Its findings would also help prepare the ground for future donor resource mobilization efforts. The first meeting of the core group took place on 30 September 1991 at Geneva.

81. It was felt that consultative meetings would be a good and sufficient mechanism for the coordination of donors' activities. It was agreed that information would be exchanged between the consultative meetings as and when appropriate and that UNDP would act as a clearing-house for information exchange at the initial stages.

82. To assist in overall implementation of the future action plan, the Administrator made a decision early in 1991 to create the post of Senior Focal Point, based in Zambia. The post falls under the supervision of the Regional Director for Africa, with day-to-day support and guidance from the Division for Southern Africa. UNDP also has established an internal Task Force on South Africa in order to oversee and assist in the development and review of its strategy towards the political and social developments in South Africa.

K. Coordinating activities of the Second Decade

Inter-agency consultation

83. The General Assembly and other policy-making bodies gave considerable importance to the effective coordination of United Nations activities under the Second Decade as a means of strengthening the activities against discrimination. In this regard, the Coordinator for United Nations activities under the Second Decade convened the First Inter-Agency Consultation on the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in May 1990 and, following the recommendations of that meeting, convened the Second Inter-Agency Meeting at Geneva on 19 April 1991.

84. In convening that meeting, the Coordinator suggested that the work of each agency should be reviewed in the light of four general headings: (a) review of specific activities to combat racial discrimination and in particular apartheid in the period 1991-1993; (b) suggestions of unexplored areas where activities or programmes could be initiated; (c) suggestions for activities which could be carried out in cooperation with the various bodies or Secretariat units; and (d) suggestions for improving coordination and cooperation in the future. Two specific aspects were suggested for close attention: (a) the new and emerging forms of racism, such as against migrant workers, minorities, non-citizens, indigenous peoples and religious groups, and each organization's or unit's response; and (b) information and educational activities specially focused on the promotion of tolerance and racial harmony.

85. Subsequent to the Second Inter-Agency Meeting, the Coordinator wrote to all agencies and appropriate Secretariat units regarding the programme of the Second Decade, the proposed third decade and the World Conference on Human Rights. With regard to a number of meetings or seminars scheduled under the Second Decade, the Coordinator requested that each agency consider if it could co-sponsor one of those meetings or seminars. With regard to the proposed third decade, the Coordinator invited the agencies to begin reflecting on what the programme of action for the third decade could contain; for example, it could focus attention on the national level and attempt to develop indicators or criteria which could be used to measure progress. Finally, with regard to the World Conference on Human Rights, the Coordinator noted that the fight against discrimination would be an important part of the Conference's work and invited each agency and office to make its contribution to the preparations for the Conference and to the Conference itself.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

86. On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March 1991, a round-table discussion was organized at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The round table was moderated by Ms. Rukia Hanna-Hussen, Centre for Human Rights, and included the following panelists: Mr. Agha Shahi, Chairman, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Mr. Nouredine Hached, Permanent Observer of the Organization

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of African Unity to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Mr. E. Houshmand, Representative of the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Coordinator for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; Mr. K. Chamari, International Commission of Jurists, and Mrs. Dimza Pityana, Secretary for Human Rights and Peace, World Alliance of the Young Women's Christian Association. The statement read on behalf of the Coordinator by his representative focused in general on the activities of the United Nations since its establishment aimed at eliminating racism and racial discrimination and in particular on the programme of activities of the Second Decade.

Meeting of consultation with non-governmental organizations and anti-apartheid movements

87. A meeting of consultation with non-governmental organizations and anti-apartheid movements organized by the Centre against Apartheid took place at Geneva on 4 and 5 November 1991. Some 40 national and international organizations were represented along with high-level delegations from two NLMs. The purpose of the meeting was to focus on ways and means to address the enormous needs of disadvantaged South Africans in the humanitarian, social, educational and development fields during the transitional period. The Coordinator for the Decade-related activities in his opening statement dealt with the principle of equality and non-discrimination which were at the very heart of United Nations activities in promoting human rights. He reviewed the activities of the Organization designed to promote equality and non-discrimination in general and with regard to apartheid in South Africa.

88. Concerning ways and means to address the future needs of disadvantaged South Africans in the humanitarian, social, educational and development fields, the Coordinator described the United Nations Programme for Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights, which can provide various forms of assistance in strengthening national human rights infrastructures and in creating awareness of human rights principles. Under that programme, technical assistance can be provided in the drafting of the human rights elements of new constitutions and in the legal and technical aspects of democratic elections. Help can be provided in the drafting of national legislation and in the training of officials to ensure that national law and practice conform to international standards. Fellowships for the study of human rights issues can be provided and assistance can be given in the translation into local languages and publication of international standards. The Centre for Human Rights had received numerous requests for assistance from within South Africa; these were being considered in consultation with the Centre against Apartheid and ways were being explored in which the United Nations human rights programme would make further contributions towards the establishment of democracy in South Africa. It is the Centre's intention to contribute as much as possible to further positive developments, both through a careful scrutiny of the situation from a human rights point of view and by providing assistance to those trying to build a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

International Symposium on New Forms of Racism

89. The international Symposium on New Forms of Racism took place at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 4 to 6 November 1991. Organized by the International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, the Symposium brought together international experts, non-governmental organizations and governmental observers to identify new forms or expressions of racism in different contexts, to indicate their causes and to analyse the consequences. In an opening statement, the Coordinator of the Decade drew attention to new expressions of racism directed against, for example, migrant workers, minorities, refugees, asylum seekers, indigenous populations and groups such as gypsies. He pointed to the alarming rise in anti-Semitism and the increase in violence. The Coordinator reviewed the work of the United Nations against discrimination, including recent studies and seminars, and made some suggestions concerning future action nationally and internationally to increase the effectiveness of activities against racism and racial discrimination.

L. Seminars and workshops

90. The Coordinator, in his capacity as Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, continued to include issues relating to the elimination of racial discrimination in the programme of the various training courses, workshops and seminars organized by the Centre for Human Rights. For example, the importance of equality and the elimination of racial discrimination were underscored in two national training courses, one in Brasilia and one in Caracas in June 1991, during the African Seminar on International Human Rights Standards and the Administration of Justice (Cairo, June 1991), in the National Workshop on the Implementation of International Human Rights Instruments and Reporting Obligations (Moscow, 26-30 August 1991) and at the International Conference on National Institutions on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Paris, 7-9 October 1991).

Seminar on International Human Rights Standards and Constitutional Law for Specialists from South Africa

91. The Centre for Human Rights and the World Council of Churches organized at Geneva, in June 1991, a Seminar on International Human Rights Standards and Constitutional Law for 33 persons from South Africa who were concerned with the development of a new constitutional structure in South Africa; this seminar was organized in consultation with the Centre against Apartheid. The participants, who took part in their personal capacities, came from a broad spectrum of South African society. Outstanding international experts were invited to present papers and lead the discussion on international human rights norms and how they can be included in constitutional law.

92. The Seminar was opened by statements by Mr. Jan Martenson, Coordinator of Decade-related activities and Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, and by Mr. Emilio Castro, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches.

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Mr. Keba M'Baye, former Judge of the International Court of Justice and former Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, gave an inaugural lecture entitled "International human rights standards and constitutional law with special reference to the independence of the judiciary".

Meeting of experts to review the experience of countries in the operation of schemes of internal self-government for indigenous peoples

93. The plan of activities for the Second Decade provides for a meeting of experts to review national experience in the operation of schemes of internal self-government for indigenous populations. That meeting took place at Nuuk, Greenland, from 24 to 28 September 1991 at the invitation of the Home Rule Government of Greenland and the Government of Denmark. Participants representing the host Governments and the Governments of Australia, Canada, Chile, the Gambia, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics took part, as did representatives of five indigenous organizations. Observers from four Governments, from indigenous peoples' and other non-governmental organizations, and a representative of the International Labour Office (ILO) took part; four resource persons also participated.

94. The agenda for the meeting, which was recommended by the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, included the following topics:

(a) Scope and effective exercise of internal self-autonomy and self-government: (i) fields where autonomy would be effective as a means of strengthening the enjoyment of all human rights; (ii) means of assuring popular participation and respect for human rights by autonomous indigenous institutions;

(b) Fiscal and administrative relations between indigenous governments and States: (i) models of apportioning responsibility, providing for ongoing consultations and resolving disputes; (ii) alternative resource-sharing arrangements and cooperation in the planning and management of development;

(c) Effective means of planning for and implementing autonomy, including negotiated constitutional arrangements and involving both territorial and personal autonomy;

(d) Adoption of recommendations.

95. The meeting concluded its deliberations by adopting the Nuuk Conclusions and Recommendations on Indigenous Autonomy and Self-Government. That document consists of 15 principles dealing with the various aspects and elements of autonomy and self-government and 9 recommendations for action directed at States and the United Nations. The meeting, *inter alia*, recommended that the Commission on Human Rights consider the possibility of establishing international monitoring mechanisms to deal with indigenous peoples. It also requested ILO and the Centre for Human Rights to prepare a handbook on

experiences in self-government of indigenous peoples and invited States to support its publication and distribution by providing adequate resources.

M. Implementation of activities under the Second Decade

96. Since the adoption of the plan of activities for the Second Decade, the Secretary-General has been reporting regularly to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights on the progress made in implementing the plan of activities of the Second Decade. As reflected in the annual reports submitted to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council, a great number of the activities under the Second Decade have already been executed.

1. Seminars

97. The organization of seminars and consultations are important parts of the overall programme. Such seminars provided forums for experts in the various manifestations and forms of racial discrimination to meet, discuss and highlight issues of importance in the fight against racial discrimination and led to the formulation of recommendations and plans for the continuing fight against racial discrimination. Reference may be made to the following most recent seminars:

- Seminar on the effects of racism and racial discrimination on the social and economic relations between indigenous peoples and States (E/CN.4/1989/22).
- Seminar on cultural dialogue between the countries of origin and the host countries of migrant workers (E/CN.4/1990/50).
- Seminar on the political, historical, economic, social and cultural factors contributing to racism and racial discrimination and apartheid (E/CN.4/1991/63 and Add.1).
- Meeting of experts to review the experience of countries in the operation of schemes of internal self-government for indigenous peoples (E/CN.4/1992/42).

98. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1991/11 of 22 February 1991, requested the Secretary-General to organize in 1991 a meeting of representatives of national institutions and organizations promoting tolerance and harmony and combating racism and racial discrimination with a view to exchanging experience on the promotion of such objectives; lack of financial resources prevented the organization of this seminar in 1991; it is the intention of the Secretariat to organize it as soon as possible in 1992 provided the necessary resources are made available.

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2. Publications

99. The elimination of racism and racial discrimination is a key element in the overall United Nations human rights programme and a particular effort is made to publish information relating to the subject. In the Human Rights Fact Sheets series, the following have been published in the six official languages: Fact Sheet No. 5, Global Consultation on Racism and Racial Discrimination; Fact Sheet No. 9, The Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Fact Sheet No. 12, The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

3. Studies

100. The Secretary-General, in the context of the Decade's plan of activities, is preparing the following studies which will be published in 1992:

(a) Model legislation for the guidance of Governments in the enactment of further legislation against racism and racial discrimination. A draft text of this legislation was brought to the attention of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination during its fortieth session for its observations and comments. The Committee will complete its revision of the model legislation during its forty-first session. The final text of the legislation will subsequently be issued in the light of the Committee's comments and suggestions;

(b) Handbook of recourse procedures available to victims of racism and racial discrimination, which is being prepared in the light of United Nations seminars on this subject;

(c) Technical study on the impact of article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in providing guarantees of equality to persons belonging to minorities. It is the intention of the Secretariat to publish this study in 1992 after consultations with the pertinent expert bodies.

4. Future activities

101. The General Assembly, in its resolution 42/47, approved the plan of activities for the second half of the Second Decade and invited the Secretary-General to proceed with the implementation of those activities and to ensure that sufficient additional resources were included in the relevant programme budgets. These activities were incorporated into the regular work programme of the Centre for Human Rights, but they were not accompanied by any increase in regular resources. This lack of resources has seriously hampered the Secretariat's ability to implement the various activities.

102. The implementation of the activities of the second half of the Second Decade is of the highest importance; as provided for under General Assembly resolution 42/47, the following activities will be carried out during the

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remainder of the Decade to the extent that sufficient resources are made available:

(a) Global study of the extent to which the children of migrant workers are enabled to receive education in their mother tongue;

(b) Regional workshops on the adoption of legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination;

(c) Seminar on community relations commissions and their functions;

(d) Seminar to assess experience gained in the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

(e) Round table of experts to discuss the preparation of teaching materials to combat racism and racial discrimination;

(f) Issuance in three additional languages of the handbook of recourse procedures available to victims of racism and racial discrimination;

(g) Two regional workshops on the adoption of legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination;

(h) International campaign on the main obstacles to the full eradication of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, and on ways and means of bringing about their elimination;

(i) Study on the treatment of political prisoners and detainees in South Africa, particularly women and children;

(j) Global study on the extent of dissemination of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

103. In the general publications of the Centre, the following have been published: Report of the Seminar on the effects of racism and racial discrimination on the social and economic relations between indigenous peoples and States (HR/Pub/89/5); Global compilation of national legislation against racial discrimination (HR/Pub/90/8); The First Twenty Years: Progress report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (HR/Pub/91/..). The Manual on Human Rights Reporting (HR/Pub/91/1) includes chapters on reporting under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Finally, the study on the achievements made and obstacles encountered during the Decades to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/8 and Add.1) prepared by Mr. Eide will be published and distributed on as wide a scale as possible in 1992.

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N. Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

104. The General Assembly has repeatedly appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund and, to this end, requested the Secretary-General to undertake appropriate contacts and initiatives to encourage contributions.

105. Since the period covered by the last report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1991/43), the following States have contributed to the Trust Fund for the Second Decade: Austria, US\$ 5,000; Dominica, US\$ 1,993; Japan, US\$ 10,000; Malaysia, US\$ 500, and Thailand, US\$ 1,000. The balance available (as at 11 February 1992) is US\$ 10,000.

106. The current status of the Trust Fund continues to be far from encouraging despite the repeated appeals for voluntary contributions made by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General. Further contributions are urgently needed to provide the much-needed supplementary resources required to implement the various activities envisaged in the Programme of Action for the Second Decade. The Secretary-General has just launched an appeal to Governments, non-governmental organizations and private foundations for contributions to this Fund.

O. Launching a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination

107. Both the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (resolution 1991/2) and the Commission on Human Rights (resolutions 1991/11 and 1992/8) have recommended that the General Assembly take appropriate steps, in due course, to launch a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination to begin in 1993.

108. The Economic and Social Council may wish to endorse this recommendation and request the Secretary-General to submit a draft programme of action for consideration by the Commission on Human Rights and the Council and the General Assembly in 1993.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

A. Canada

109. Canada submitted its third biennial report on the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in August 1990 and has also submitted 10 reports since 1971 under the terms of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. These reports contain information on measures adopted by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments to implement the programme of the Decade and the provisions of the Convention. The reports are published in Canada as part of the continuing human rights educational programme of the Government of Canada and are distributed free of charge.

110. Some of the activities which were reported on during the period 1985-1989 include: the Proclamation of the Second Decade by the Prime Minister of Canada on 21 March 1986 and the Canadian Multiculturalism Act of 1988. The Government of Canada has introduced a funding programme to support activities promoting the elimination of racial discrimination and increased cross-cultural understanding. As part of a plan of action to eliminate racial discrimination in Canada, there have been public education campaigns, assistance to voluntary organizations and coalitions, support for research on racism and how to fight it effectively, and cooperation between different levels of government to eliminate racial discrimination. There have also been several initiatives generated within the framework of the 1988 Ministerial Conference on Human Rights, such as agreement by all federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions to participate in the observance of 21 March, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the identification of relations between the police and minorities as an important area for cooperation between the federal, provincial and territorial governments.

111. Concerning the last point, Governments have taken numerous steps. For example, on 31 December 1990, the Government of Ontario proclaimed the Police Services Act, 1990. This Act responds to many of the recommendations of the Task Force on Race Relations and Policing. In particular, it establishes a province-wide civilian complaints system, mandatory employment equity plans for all police forces, and prescribes guidelines for police training in race relations and the use of force.

112. The Supreme Court of Canada recently upheld a Criminal Code provision prohibiting the wilful dissemination of hate propaganda. Although such a provision was found to limit freedom of expression, it was nevertheless justifiable in a free and democratic society. A similar conclusion was reached by the Supreme Court in respect of section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act which prohibits the repeated communication by telephone of any matter likely to expose a person to hatred on specified grounds.

113. The Government of Canada continues to exert pressure on the Government of South Africa to dismantle apartheid, particularly through the application of economic sanctions, in concert with other members of the Commonwealth.

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114. The situation of aboriginal people in Canada requires a commitment by the federal Government to finding solutions to the problems of aboriginal people. To this end, the Prime Minister outlined in the House of Commons on 25 September 1990 the Government's plans to deal with the particular concerns and interest of Canada's first citizens. He stated that the Government's agenda consisted of four main pillars: land claims, the economic and social conditions on reserves, the relationship between aboriginal peoples and governments and the concerns of Canada's aboriginal peoples in contemporary Canadian life.

115. Governments in Canada will continue to undertake initiatives and implement programmes which aim at ensuring the continued implementation of the Decade programme and the provisions of the Convention. For example, 21 March, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, has, since 1989, progressively taken on more importance as the focus for a broadly based national public education campaign. Legislation has been introduced to establish a Canadian Race Relations Foundation, with a Can\$ 24 million endowment from the Government of Canada to foster racial harmony and to help eliminate racism. In keeping with the national action plan, new partnerships will continue to be developed to involve even more opinion leaders, community organizations, institutions (police and justice, education, media, labour, business, health and social services) and other levels of government in the fight against racial discrimination. The Government of Canada is also looking at the possibility of special initiatives, possibly international in scope and in cooperation with United Nations agencies, to mark the closing of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

B. Colombia

1. Action against apartheid

116. The rejection of apartheid and racial discrimination can be said to be one of the general principles of Colombia's foreign policy, and as a result it has supported the adoption of measures to sanction countries which engage in and encourage practices violating human rights. This applies to Colombia's relations with South Africa and explains its support for Namibian independence.

117. Colombia has sponsored or supported various United Nations resolutions containing declarations or providing for sanctions against the apartheid regime. Similarly, in recognition of the struggle of the South African people as personified by Nelson Mandela, the Government of Colombia has awarded him the Orden Nacional al Mérito, Grado Gran Cruz (National Order of Merit) by virtue of Decree No. 1433 of 15 July 1988.

118. Although it is recognized that the Government which came to power in South Africa in 1989 has made positive changes, inter alia, by legalizing previously forbidden political movements and repealing laws such as those applying the system of apartheid regulating land ownership and governing residence certification and population registration, it is also noted that the

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political system continues to function as before with regard to matters such as the limitation of the black population's right to vote.

2. Friendship and cooperation with Namibia

119. When Namibia achieved independence on 21 March 1990, Colombia sought to formalize relations with the new Republic and, on 28 April 1990, a joint communiqué was signed at United Nations Headquarters in New York by which the two Governments established diplomatic relations and, at the same time, proclaimed the bonds of friendship and cooperation for the mutual benefit of their peoples. That decision was based on common respect for the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law, peace, security, economic development and the elimination of all forms of colonialism and racial discrimination.

3. Constitutional and legal measures against racial discrimination

120. Provision has been made in Colombian legislation for the measures and safeguards needed to enable all citizens to petition the administration and apply for the necessary remedies when they believe themselves to have been injured, for whatever reason, by measures adopted by virtue of an administrative act or by the actions, or failure to act, of an agent of the State. As a result of such remedies, the right which has been violated may be restored or compensation paid for the moral or material damage incurred. All proceedings related to this kind of claim are handled by the administrative courts to which all citizens, without any distinction, may have recourse.

121. The new Political Constitution of Colombia, which was drafted with direct representation of the indigenous population, has a range of provisions which prohibit discrimination, recognize ethnic and linguistic diversity and give greater autonomy to indigenous communities in managing their affairs. It even establishes a special jurisdiction, the regulations for which are under consideration by the Congress of the Republic.

122. Article 5 of the Constitution acknowledges, without discrimination, the primacy of the inalienable rights of the person.

123. Article 13 states that all persons are equal before the law and guarantees them the same protection and treatment by the authorities and the enjoyment of the same rights, freedoms and opportunities, without discrimination based on sex, race, national or family origin, language, religion or political or philosophical opinions. Similarly, it establishes the State's commitment to promoting conditions of real and effective equality, and to adopting measures in favour of groups which are marginalized or discriminated against.

4. Rights of indigenous peoples

124. With regard to territorial distribution and autonomy, the Constitution also recognizes the rights of indigenous persons to own their ancestral territory, and its autonomy, so that they may govern themselves in accordance with their own forms of social organization based on their special cultural characteristics.

125. Thus, with regard to territorial regulation, article 329 provides that "the indigenous territorial entities shall be constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Organic Law of Territorial Regulation and shall be delimited by the Government with the participation of representatives of the indigenous communities, subject to the prior opinion of the Committee on Territorial Regulation. The reserves are collective property and non-transferable."

126. As regards the powers of self-determination and self-government, article 330 provides that the indigenous territories constituted shall be governed by councils structured and regulated according to the customs and habits of their communities.

127. Political representation for minorities has also been strengthened under the new Constitution, since a special constituency has been established to ensure the participation of ethnic groups and political minorities in Congress. The National Election Board, made up of seven representatives of political parties represented in Congress, has been made responsible for watching over the rights of the opposition and minorities in electoral matters.

128. The Government also guarantees and promotes the creation and work of organizations seeking to defend, encourage and promote indigenous interests at the political, economic and cultural levels. One example is the participation of the Indigenous Organization of Colombia in official bodies, as representative of the Colombian indigenous population. (A list of legally recognized indigenous organizations operating at the regional, district and local levels, covering all parts of Colombian territory where an indigenous population exists, was annexed* to Colombia's submission.)

129. The Colombian educational system, acknowledging ethnic diversity and the need to offer school curricula which cater for and respect the special character of communities, as well as the duty to guarantee access to higher levels of vocational training, has embarked on training and financing programmes, the aims and achievements of which are set out below.

130. Decree No. 1142 of 1978 established the bilingual and bicultural character of ethno-education and recognized the right of indigenous communities to receive an education in accordance with their socio-cultural

* Available for consultation at the Centre for Human Rights.

and economic particularities and with the aim of strengthening their social decision-making powers as a prerequisite for exercising their political rights and achieving self-determination.

131. In the framework of the development of an ethno-education programme, work is being done on drawing up a curriculum aimed at creating study programmes which meet the needs of the communities. In this respect, support has been given to 30 regional projects in as many ethnic groups, which is equal to 37 per cent of the 87 in existence. Each draft curriculum is at the same time an applied research project. The programme also supports research in areas such as anthropology, linguistics and pedagogy within the educational process.

132. With a view to making it easier for indigenous persons to enter higher education, and taking into account that one of the main problems facing the indigenous student population on finishing secondary education is the lack of funds to pay for admission to university, the National University of Colombia issued a decision whereby 2 per cent of the places available at that university would be reserved for indigenous candidates.

133. Mention should also be made of the establishment of the "Alvaro Ulcué" Grant Fund, which is administered by the Colombian Institute of Credit for Education and Technical Studies Abroad and aims to provide support for indigenous students in their pre-university and undergraduate studies. At present, there are 120 students receiving special long-term financing.

134. This major objective is being pursued with the cooperation of the National Committee on Aboriginal Linguistics, which has been in operation since 1983, and the participation of specialized bodies of the Ministry of the Interior, the National Planning Department, Colciencias, the Ministry of Education, the Caro y Cuervo Institute, the National University and the University of the Andes, and guests from indigenous organizations.

135. The National Committee on Aboriginal Linguistics has supported training of specialized national linguists in postgraduate courses at the National University and the University of the Andes. To date, specialists in 20 different aboriginal languages have graduated, including 15 indigenous persons supported jointly by the Government and the Indigenous Organization of Colombia, which has been recognized by the Government as the representative of these communities. (An annex* to the submission gives details of the languages which have been researched so far in various areas of the country.)

5. Promotion and protection of human rights

136. The inclusion of human rights in syllabuses for children and young persons has been promoted by the Office of the Presidential Adviser for the Defence, Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, set up in 1988 to coordinate and encourage the Colombian State's energetic measures to foster fundamental rights, through its different agents.

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137. The Office has endeavoured to include human rights education at all academic levels of the formal education system. Its educational efforts are focused on two areas: research and promotion of human rights. A large number of instructors and teachers qualified to carry out educational tasks in this area have already been trained.

138. The human rights training programmes being promoted include those geared to the police and the military, comprising a series of seminars and training workshops on Colombian indigenous legislation.

139. Training has even reached municipalities, as basic territorial entities, via the creation of Committees for the Defence, Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, and aims to bring the issue to the local level in the hope of raising awareness of the existence of national and international standards which safeguard the enjoyment of fundamental rights.

140. Furthermore, programmes to produce and distribute teaching materials which are used as bibliographical and pedagogical support for training in human rights are being carried out.

141. Publications have been brought out describing national and international legal developments with regard to human rights and providing information on the institutional methods and machinery available for reporting accusations of human rights violations.

142. Finally, it should be pointed out that, by way of encouraging international action for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, the Colombian State is up to date with its contributions under the Convention, in accordance with the level of payments decided upon by the United Nations committee on budgetary questions.

143. As can be seen from the foregoing, the Government of Colombia has made efforts in various areas to prevent and punish racial discrimination in its various forms and it will continue to build upon the measures already taken by developing the constitutional principles of equality and respect.

C. Cuba

144. The Government of the Republic of Cuba is pleased to reaffirm the active and consistent support it has always provided for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, convinced as it is of the need for more effective and sustained international measures to be adopted in order to eliminate all forms of racism and racial discrimination and completely to eradicate apartheid.

145. It would also like to express its deep concern at the wave of racism and xenophobia and all the forms of discrimination currently being practised in some developed countries, especially in Europe, against migrant workers, and at the situation in the occupied Arab territories, which are the victims of

criminal Zionist practices. The foregoing, together with the persistent racist and discriminatory behaviour being observed in the United States, represents a flagrant violation of the human rights of the individuals and communities against whom they are directed.

146. It is a well-known fact that the Republic of Cuba maintains no relations of any kind with the Government of South Africa, in keeping with its consistent and principled position of condemning the Government for its apartheid policy.

147. Its condemnation has also been extended to those countries and bodies which, by their disregard for the convictions of the international community and United Nations action in this area and their systematic collaboration with the perpetrators make it possible for such human rights violations to continue. It also hopes that the guidelines set out in the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, in particular the existing sanctions against South Africa, will be maintained until there is evidence of profound and irreversible change. Thus, the implementation of the activities of the Second Decade must continue, and higher priority should be given to measures to combat apartheid.

148. The Republic of Cuba associates itself with the appeal contained in paragraph 25 of General Assembly resolution 45/105 for all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and reaffirms its will to continue to support this noble cause.

D. Rwanda

149. The measures adopted by the Government of the Rwandese Republic during the first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination are still in force. These comprise article 28 of the decree-law establishing the judiciary regulations and article 2 of the Rwandese Labour Code, which prohibit discrimination in any form, the Rwandese Penal Code, which penalizes any person or group of persons guilty of discrimination (art. 391), as well as observers of all the international commitments entered into by the Rwandese Government concerning human rights and, in particular, concerning action to combat discrimination.

150. Further, legislative measures have been adopted since 1985 with a view to implementing the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. They include the following legal instruments:

(a) Act No. 14/1985, regulating the organization of primary, rural and integrated trade education and secondary education, was enacted on 29 June 1985 by the Rwandese parliament. Article 2 of that Act stipulates that primary education is free and compulsory for all children domiciled in the territory of Rwanda without any discrimination, particularly as to race, origin, etc.;

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(b) The new Constitution of 10 June 1991 guarantees the right of every person to equality before the law. Article 16 of the above-mentioned Constitution stipulates that "all citizens are equal before the law, without any discrimination, particularly as to race, colour, origin, ethnic group, clan, sex, opinion, religion or social position". This Constitution grants foreigners, irrespective of their race, the same status as nationals with regard to the enjoyment of civil rights (art. 14);

(c) In order to ensure the fuller implementation of the provisions of article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulates that "everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference", the new Constitution provides for a multi-party political system. Article 7 of the Constitution determines that political parties meeting the legal requirements are entitled to take part in elections. One of these requirements is established by article 3 of Act No. 28/91 on political parties. That article reads as follows: "No political party may, in its principles, programmes and actions, practise discrimination based on ethnic, regional or religious affiliation or on any other criterion", particularly that of race, sex, etc.;

(d) The signing by the Rwandese Government on 26 January 1990 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 1989, has provided Rwanda with another legal instrument in the area of combating racial discrimination against children. In accordance with article 2, States parties undertake to respect the rights set forth in that Convention and to ensure them to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, or of any other consideration, and irrespective of their national, ethnic or racial origin, property, disability, birth or other status. The Convention also establishes that States parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is effectively protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians or family members. The Rwandese State ratified the Convention by presidential decree No. 772/16 of 1 September 1990, thus obliging Rwanda to incorporate the provisions of the Convention into its own legal system.

E. Spain

151. During the past decade, and in accordance with the Spanish Constitution and the relevant United Nations resolutions and recommendations, in particular the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, various instruments have been adopted which provide for equal treatment and the enjoyment and exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms irrespective of race, colour or national or ethnic origin. They include:

(a) Provisions applicable to Spaniards: Royal Decree No. 1245/1985 of 17 July, which amends and supplements the provisions governing the National

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Identity Document; Royal Decree No. 1064/1988 of 16 September, which amends the rules regarding the issue of ordinary passports to Spaniards and provides for the introduction of a passport of standard format in conformity with resolutions of the European Communities; Act No. 18/1990 of 17 December, concerning amendments to the Civil Code in respect of nationality;

(b) Provisions applicable to foreigners: Organic Act No. 7/1985 of 1 July, concerning the rights and freedoms of foreigners in Spain; Royal Decree No. 1099/1986 of 26 May, concerning the entry, stay and work in Spain of citizens of States members of the European Communities; Regulations adopted by Royal Decree No. 511/1985 of 20 February, for the application of Act No. 5/84 of 26 March, which governs the right of asylum and refugee status.

152. The measures and practices adopted in Spain to prevent racism and all forms of racial discrimination are in compliance with the above-mentioned instruments and in implementing them there has been no act or situation involving discrimination on the grounds of race or origin.

III. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

A. International Labour Office

Action to combat apartheid

153. At the 78th session of the International Labour Conference (June 1991), the Director-General presented his 27th Special Report on the application of the Declaration concerning action against apartheid.

154. The Director-General reported that 1990 had been a watershed period following the South African Government's declaration of its intention to dismantle apartheid; but the racist system had not yet been abolished and much still had to be done to overcome its effects during the many years it was government policy. ILO must find a way of responding positively to calls made on it by those in need of assistance towards eradicating the remnants of apartheid.

155. International sanctions were maintained during 1990, in spite of the South African Government's campaign to secure their lifting as a consequence of its new policy, and sanctions had undoubtedly affected the country's economy: the Trust Bank (of South Africa) estimated a loss of foreign exchange since 1985 amounting to US\$ 16 billion while the gross domestic product had declined by US\$ 8 billion.

156. During the period reviewed by the Special Report, trade union membership had increased to two million which in relative terms made South Africa twice as unionized as a number of industrialized countries. The majority of members belonged to two non-racial federations, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the National Council of Trade Unions (NACTU), while a disputed number belonged to 176 independent unions.

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157. Meanwhile, there was more recognition among white workers of the greater success non-racial unions had had in fighting for their members. But police and vigilante activities continued to hamper the normal functioning of unions.

158. The major rift between employers and trade unions, over the Labour Relations Amendment Act, was bridged when the South African Employers' Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs reached an agreement with COSATU and NACTU. Meanwhile, the major industrial concern of employers was over violence in the workplace, high wage demands, the rise in the number of serious strikes, the high rate of inflation and the serious lack of skilled workers and managers.

159. On the other hand, the president of the National African Federated Chambers of Commerce, had said that as far as the economy was concerned, the black community were still outsiders skirting around the periphery of the mainstream economy.

160. As in previous years, significant components of ILO's work continued to be the monitoring of action taken, or not taken, against apartheid; technical cooperation projects to assist the victims of apartheid; research on current developments; actions to protect human rights; and the implementation of international labour standards.

161. The Committee on Discrimination of the ILO Governing Body examined developments in South Africa and noted a breakdown in what had appeared to be an improvement in relations between workers' and employers' organizations with the National Manpower Commission (NMC). The Labour Relations Amendment Act, devised to reflect changes demanded by workers' and employers' organizations, had come into force in May 1991, followed by COSATU and NACTU agreeing to serve on the NMC. But in September 1991 the workers' organizations withdrew because, they alleged, the Government had declined to give effect to the restructuring proposals the two had agreed with the NMC.

162. In response to requests received from COSATU and NACTU, ILO has provided technical advice to be used in relation to the work of the NMC subcommittees on amended labour laws that would cover agricultural and domestic workers and public servants, three sectors that are currently excluded.

163. In response to paragraph 64 (p) of the conclusions of the International Labour Conference Committee on Action against Apartheid, which urges the Director-General to respond effectively to requests from workers' organizations for technical cooperation assistance, representatives of COSATU and NACTU and some of their affiliated unions were invited to the Office for consultations to identify specific areas for the assistance. A number of specific requests from COSATU could not be met because they involved activities organized inside South Africa.

164. The Committee on Action against Apartheid recommended that the Governing Body should convene an international tripartite conference in, and for, the southern African subregion before the next session of the Conference in 1992.

The purpose would be to study concrete proposals for regional integration and to review the current situation in South Africa with a view to providing up-to-date information to the 1992 Conference so that suggestions for further action could be made. The Government of Zimbabwe has indicated that the conference could be held in Harare from 5 to 8 May 1992.

165. The Group of Independent Experts set up in 1989 to follow up on and monitor the implementation of sanctions and other action against apartheid held its fifth, sixth and seventh meetings during 1991. The fifth meeting was held at ILO headquarters in Geneva from 25 February to 1 March 1991. The Group had before it a report on financial sanctions against South Africa and was of the view that the report confirmed the effectiveness of the sanctions and should be widely distributed.

166. The Group noted that further progress in implementing those provisions of the Programme of Action envisaging restrictive policies against South Africa had not been extensive during the reporting period, attributing this fact in large measure to the perception that South Africa was on the road towards abolishing apartheid. The Group welcomed the positive developments in South Africa but expressed the view that there were still many obstacles to be overcome, and hoped that Governments would continue to apply existing restrictive measures until such time as constituent members of ILO decided that the Declaration and the Programme of Action against Apartheid were no longer necessary.

167. The sixth meeting of the Group of Independent Experts took place in New York from 22 to 26 April 1991. The Group had before it a revised and expanded version of the study on South African coal mining and a coal embargo and it decided that after suitable editing the study should be published and translated into French. The study shows that South Africa is the world's largest coal exporter after Australia and the United States and holds second place for exporting steam coal (used mainly for power generation). Japan and the European Community were the largest markets, with Italy and Spain the major EC importers and Denmark the only EC member to have imposed a total embargo.

168. Coal is South Africa's biggest source of foreign exchange after gold (US\$ 1.36 billion in 1989), and the exporters enjoy substantially lower production costs: one estimate is that wages are only 20 per cent of those paid by competitors. Coal exporters avoid or evade the embargo in various ways, such as exporting through Maputo to represent the product as Mozambican and mixing it with coal of other origin (for example, the "Dutch blend"). The Group noted from the study that evasion could be prevented more effectively by countries seeking to impose and/or monitor the embargo using petrological analysis to establish the origin of coal samples as well as through increased international cooperation and coordination. The Group noted that despite the erosion of sanctions as negotiations for a non-racial democracy got under way, most programmes were still in place. While South Africa's trade balance showed a surplus in 1990, rising by 17 per cent, exports rose by only 3.13 per cent and imports declined.

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169. The seventh meeting of the Group was held from 23 to 27 September 1991 when it took particular note of the recommendation in paragraph 64 (n) of the conclusions of the International Labour Conference Committee on Action against Apartheid at the 78th session of the International Labour Conference. After considering the revised draft of the study on the coal embargo, the Group adopted the interim conclusions set out at its previous meeting as final and authorized publication before the end of 1991.

170. The Group had before it a paper prepared by a consultant on sanctions and their effects on unemployment in South Africa. On the basis of this study, the Group drew several conclusions on the issues of escalating unemployment in South Africa and the effects of restrictions on economic links which have to a certain extent prevented recovery from the country's economic problems. The Group was of the view that the paper offered a valuable contribution to an informed discussion of the subject, in particular through its conclusion that "while the present serious and worsening unemployment problem in South Africa cannot be attributed to sanctions, it is fair to conclude that sanctions have played a role in exacerbating the situation".

171. The Committee on Discrimination reviewed ILO's activities concerning apartheid in November 1991. The Committee recommended that the Governing Body approve the agenda for the tripartite conference on southern Africa, its composition formula and that it be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 5 to 8 May 1992. The proposed agenda is as follows: social, economic and labour aspects of subregional integration in post-apartheid southern Africa, and recent developments concerning apartheid in South Africa.

172. ILO has continued to respond positively to requests from ANC and PAC for specific technical inputs. One was for technical advisory services by the regional adviser in vocational training at the pilot vocational training centre for ANC in Dakawa, United Republic of Tanzania. Training and technical advisory activities also continued under phase II of the project to assist South African and other refugees in Zambia, with ILO continuing to cooperate with the Zambian Federation of Employers and UNHCR. At the request of PAC, ILO sponsored a study by the movement to assess its present manpower situation and its manpower needs. There were other operational activities including a PAC women's seminar in the United Republic of Tanzania and assistance by the Office in response to requests for assistance of a short-term nature such as fellowships for the local training of ANC and PAC members in Harare, Dar es Salaam and Lusaka.

173. A pilot study is being undertaken on the informal sector of the economy in the Western Cape province of South Africa, with specific reference to the question of gender; the types of activities; the situation of the self-employed and of employees; state policy towards the sector and flexible specialization.

174. A further development during 1991 related to ILO's action against apartheid was the appointment by the Governing Body of three distinguished persons to serve on a Fact-finding and Conciliation Committee (FFCC) on

freedom of association in South Africa. The commissioners were due to visit South Africa in early 1992.

175. The appointments followed consent by the South African Government to the referral of a complaint addressed to ILO by COSATU in May 1988 alleging infringements of trade union rights and the breaching of the principles of freedom of association. In accordance with the procedure in force for dealing with complaints against Governments which are members of the United Nations but not of ILO, the complaint was referred to the Economic and Social Council by the Governing Body.

176. After twice indicating that it considered such a reference "premature", the South African Government indicated its consent in February 1991. At its 250th (May-June 1991) session, the Governing Body appointed as commissioners Sir William Douglas (Barbados), Mr. Justice Michael Kirby (Australia) and Mr. Justice Rajssoomer Lallah (Mauritius) to hear the complaint. The first meeting of the Commission was held in October in 1991 in Geneva.

Indigenous and tribal peoples

177. This is an area in which ILO and the United Nations, in particular through the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, work closely together. Since its earliest days ILO has been concerned in this area and studies began as early as 1921.

178. During 1991 ILO continued to promote the ratification and implementation of the two conventions on the conditions of life and work of indigenous and tribal peoples and to supervise the implementation. Convention No. 107 on Indigenous and Tribal Populations, 1957, has been ratified by 27 countries and was the only international instrument on the subject until the adoption of Convention No. 169 in 1989. ILO has also continued to provide technical assistance and cooperation to countries, and to indigenous and tribal communities, so as to achieve the goals of these instruments, and to cooperate with other international and national organizations to that end.

179. Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, 1989, came into force on 5 September 1991 and has now been ratified by Colombia, Mexico and Norway while confirmation of Bolivia's ratification is awaited. A number of other countries are examining ratification, and further accessions are expected. ILO has been assisting in the discussions concerning further accessions and, in particular, with indigenous non-governmental organizations as well as between them and Governments. First reports of the Convention's application will be examined by the Committee of Experts at its 1993 session.

180. The ILO programme of technical cooperation and assistance to indigenous and tribal communities, and to Governments in this connection, has continued. Activity concentrated to a degree in the Latin American region, with extensive assistance provided to the Government of Bolivia in a project for the revision of national legislation and administrative arrangements.

181. On adopting Convention No. 169 in 1989, the International Labour Conference also adopted a resolution requesting ILO to assist in coordinating activities among different organizations of the United Nations system. As a result, ILO convened a technical consultation meeting at the headquarters level in May 1990 and one at the regional level in Bangkok in December 1990. A second meeting was planned for Geneva in December 1991 that would, among other things, attempt to plan activities in view of 1993 being the International Year of the World's Indigenous People.

Promotional activities

182. Under ILO's educational and promotional programme for the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of equal opportunity in employment, a subregional tripartite seminar for central and eastern Europe was organized in Prague from 14 to 18 October 1991. A subregional tripartite seminar was held in Cairo from 9 to 13 December 1990. Other similar regional seminars will be organized in the future.

183. The document on the ILO standards and action for the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of equality of opportunity in employment has been updated, as has been the document on the activities of the Equality of Rights Branch. Both are available in English and French.

184. ILO has continued to follow developments regarding the elimination of discrimination in employment and a number of notes and studies concerning new developments in various countries have appeared regularly in ILO publications such as the International Labour Review and the Social and Labour Bulletin.

185. At the request of the Government of Namibia, and in order to give effect to the resolution concerning assistance to Namibia adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 77th session, ILO has assisted in the drafting of legislation on affirmative action in employment.

International cooperation

186. The arrangements for ILO collaboration with other international organizations on the supervision of international instruments continue to function in relation to discrimination in employment and occupation, indigenous and tribal peoples, migrant workers and basic aims and standards of social policy.

187. ILO collaborated in particular with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Programme.

B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Assistance to countries from southern Africa

188. FAO's principal contribution to the international struggle against racism and racial discrimination is focused on southern Africa. This contribution comprises assistance to populations victimized or threatened by the policies of the Government of South Africa. Although, in principle, the extensive FAO programmes in the front-line States of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and in Lesotho and Swaziland, are also relevant, only those activities benefiting Namibia and the national liberation movements (NLMs) recognized by OAU and the United Nations are reviewed in the present submission.

189. In response to resolutions by its own governing bodies and by the United Nations General Assembly, FAO has extended material and technical assistance to every one of the NLMs that have been engaged in the struggle for the independence of Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. With the attainment of independence by practically all these countries, the only NLMs now qualifying for FAO assistance are the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC).

190. FAO's programmes benefiting Namibia and the NLMs have consisted mainly of training, direct support for food production, sectoral surveys and policy analysis, and the conduct of occasional studies and dissemination of resulting information on those aspects of apartheid that have relevance to the mandate of the organization. These activities have been funded not only by UNDP and the United Nations Fund for Namibia, but also by FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme and other regular programme resources.

191. Training assistance has been given to enhance knowledge and skills in nutrition, child care, food storage and preservation, food technology, fisheries management, agricultural economics and other related subjects.

192. Support for food production has included assistance in the planning and establishment of farms, and the provision of inputs and general operating expenses for the development of the farms. Since 1979 FAO has been assisting PAC in the development of a farm at its settlement in Bagamoyo district in Tanzania. A similar project has been formulated for ANC in the United Republic of Tanzania and is awaiting funding approval.

193. Prior to Namibia's independence, FAO carried out analyses of policy options on various aspects of the country's agriculture - agrarian reform, nutrition and the protection of food supplies, fisheries, agricultural education and grazing lands. An assessment, based on satellite imagery studies, was performed of the suitability of Namibia's land resources for various types of agricultural activity.

194. During the transitional period to Namibia's independence, FAO undertook a further assessment of the country's development needs in fisheries and

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agriculture, and prepared related short-term policy options which were subsequently presented to the Government of the new nation. FAO also collaborated actively in the UNHCR-coordinated Rehabilitation and Settlement Programme for Namibia, under which the organization implemented two projects funded under its Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) - one for the supply of seeds, handtools and other agricultural inputs, and the other providing the services of an expert to advise on the agricultural aspects of the Settlement Programme.

195. In April 1990, the Director-General of FAO approved emergency food aid worth US\$ 5.5 million to provide relief to about 150,000 Namibian subsistence farmers affected by severe drought. At the request of the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group and the Government Drought Committee, FAO fielded a crop assessment mission to Namibia during May 1990.

196. Regarding Namibia's fisheries, further assistance has been given in the preparation of legislation for the control and surveillance of the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the recruitment of an Operational Assistance (OPAS) Adviser for the Fisheries Department, and the formulation of a fisheries development plan for the country.

197. Other FAO assistance to Namibia since independence has included:

(a) A fact-finding mission, in collaboration with UNDP, to study the livestock industry in the southern parts of the country;

(b) A national early warning and food information system project for UNDP funding designed to lay the foundations for the establishment of an Early Warning and Food Information System (EWFIS);

(c) TCP-funded projects for assessing ranches and farms for redistribution, the supply of seeds to drought-stricken areas and the supply of small-scale pumps for water supply and irrigation.

Cooperation in carrying out certain Decade-related activities undertaken in 1991

198. In connection with the meeting of experts to review national experiences in the operation of schemes for indigenous populations, which took place in Nuuk, Greenland from 24 to 28 September 1991, it may be mentioned that FAO conducted a study in 1989 in collaboration with the Instituto Indigenista Interamericano, analysing the experiences of indigenous communities under varying development situations in Latin America and the Caribbean. The results of this study were published in 1990 under the title "Poblaciones indígenas de América Latina y el Caribe".

Preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights

199. Regarding the proposed third decade of action against racism and racial discrimination, FAO hopes that due consideration will be given to gender in

the specific activities planned for the third decade. As the impact of racism and racial discrimination on rural women leads to further marginalization and decreased access to basic services, employment and education, they should be given special attention. Special attention would also need to be given to vulnerable subgroups including migrant workers, female heads of household, and aged and handicapped women.

200. Resources permitting, FAO is also prepared to provide the necessary technical support and assistance for the preparation of studies and reports on the situation of specific categories of disadvantaged rural people, as well as to collaborate with other United Nations agencies towards promoting development and equity in favour of the above groups.

201. FAO would suggest the inclusion of the following theme for the agenda of the Conference: "Human rights and access to food; eradicating hunger and malnutrition". This theme would enable the World Conference to follow up on related deliberations at the International Conference on Nutrition scheduled for December 1992.

IV. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)

202. A lecture on human rights and Interpol was given by a staff member of the General Secretariat to the trainees attending the Interpol Training Seminar for the National Central Bureau which took place at Lyon, France from 2 to 13 December 1991.

V. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

European Communities

203. Recently, fresh impetus has been given to the issue of migration within the States members of the European Communities and the question of migration and refugees was on the agenda of the Maastricht European Council (9-10 December 1991).

204. It is a constant aim of the States members of the European Communities that there be equality of treatment in living and working conditions for all migrants who are legally residents on the national territory, whatever their origin, with national workers. At the October European Parliament session the European Communities argued that a basic weapon for combating racism was an integration policy which would provide equal opportunities at work, in education and vocational training, in housing and in the creation of greater opportunities for dialogue. Integration should not aim at levelling all cultural differences but at promoting tolerance and acceptance of differences.

205. In a communication submitted to the European Parliament at its October session, the Commission of the European Communities developed some proposals for action based on three main considerations:

(a) Taking action on migration pressure. Migration should be an integral element of the Community's external policy. The most promising approach in the long term is to seek the right level of immigration and to aim for cooperation between the Community and member States, coupled with moves by the countries of emigration, especially developing countries, to strike the right balance between immediate measures and demographic trends;

(b) Controlling migration flows. Without seeking to prejudge the question of the member States capacity for absorbing immigrants (which, in some cases, would seem to have reached its limits) and on the basis of an agreed stance on migration flows, efforts must be made to control existing immigration channels, bearing in mind the fact that all member States have now adopted restrictive provisions: measures to combat illegal immigration, a joint approach to the right of asylum, approximation of criteria for reuniting families, formulation of a joint code on temporary contracts;

(c) Strengthening integration policies for the benefit of legal immigrants. Action at Community level can boost the chances of success of national integration policies, in themselves an essential element in terms of guaranteeing democracy and solidarity.

206. As regards the Commission's activities in the field of employment, housing and education, financial support is provided without any discrimination on the basis of nationality. The Commission continues to conduct studies and sensitize public opinion on these matters, and has started a survey of the legal instruments used by member States with a view to combating racism and xenophobia.

207. The Migrants' Forum, created at the behest of the Parliament, will work towards strengthening the legal framework for combating discrimination, towards improving preventive measures and above all towards encouraging tolerance.

208. The Commission has approved a communication to the Council calling for it to agree to the Community's request for accession to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The Commission has also called for a mandate to conduct negotiations which would allow it to determine the manner in which this accession would occur.

209. It is essential to bear in mind that the competences which have been granted to the Community in this field are limited and that the main responsibility is borne by the member States. It is significant in this respect that the 1986 Declaration against Racism and Xenophobia was signed not only by Community institutions but also by the member States, which have a clear responsibility in this field. It is for the member States to translate both the Declaration and the Resolution of 29 May 1990 on racism and xenophobia into concrete action and into new operational initiatives.

VI. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Category IIA. Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization

210. The Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) states that it is continuing to monitor closely the evolving situation in South Africa with regard to apartheid and the policy of racial discrimination, especially in this crucial period which the country is going through. The many statements and press releases which AAPSO has issued on the occasion of the momentous events occurring in South Africa - events of significant, indeed historic, scope - have all reflected its determination to work unstintingly for the total eradication of the apartheid system, and to reaffirm and to strengthen its solidarity with the South African people.

211. Hence, AAPSO did not fail to convey its warmest congratulations to the South African Government and the African National Congress (ANC) on the occasion of the initial talks, during which the two parties committed themselves to working jointly to launch the process of peaceful negotiations. The AAPSO statement on the National Peace Accord signed by the Government, ANC, the Inkatha Freedom Party and other organizations with a view to ending violence, confrontations and hostilities underscored the organization's firm conviction that this Accord would promote the establishment of the mutual confidence and the national stability required in order for the process of change initiated in South Africa to be carried out. AAPSO urged the signatories to the Peace Accord to honour the commitment which they had made.

212. AAPSO believes that democratization in South Africa must be a process which involves the entire population and which lays the groundwork for new structures free of discrimination in any form. This concept was reflected in a statement and a press release, both of which further stated that AAPSO salutes the South African people for promoting the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA); that should serve as an equitable framework for the negotiations leading to a new constitution.

213. While the referendum of 17 March 1992, which was limited to the South African white population, arose from a unilateral decision of the Government, it none the less constituted a vote, which AAPSO characterized as historic, mandating the irreversibility of the process of dismantling apartheid in South Africa. The AAPSO statement on this subject stressed that for South Africa to turn its back, once and for all, on the infamous policy based on racial discrimination constituted a decisive step towards the birth of a new, democratic and multiracial South Africa, but one which did not yet mean the abolition of the apartheid system. The statement therefore strongly emphasized the need for greater vigilance in order to ensure the complete success of the democratic reforms.

214. AAPSO representatives in Cairo invited the ANC representative in that city to report to them on the situation in South Africa, and will continue to extend invitations to him on a regular basis.

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215. Of course, while the process of dismantling apartheid has begun in South Africa, its consequences could none the less persist in that country for some time, even after the total abolition of apartheid has been proclaimed. Furthermore, a general concern now prevails in the world at the re-emergence of racism and other forms of discrimination based on race in several parts of the globe.

216. AAPSO believes that in view of such situations, and in order to prevent any escalation of the danger of fascism, the monstrous ally of racism, of which there are already some warning signs, the proclamation by the United Nations of a new (a third) decade to combat racism and racial discrimination has proved to be a pressing necessity. This third decade should be marked by a new and vigorous campaign to mobilize world public opinion through all the mass media and through specific activities to combat this scourge.

B. International Federation-Terre des Hommes

217. The International Federation-Terre des Hommes (IFTDH) fully endorses the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/105. It endeavours, within the limits of its resources, and where such an opportunity arises, to assist the victims of all forms of discrimination. In all of the Federation's published statements on this subject, its members observe the principle of non-discrimination and make every effort to promote it.

218. While some progress has been made in South Africa, certain forms of apartheid still remain. In that country, which is not, strictly speaking, a developing country (the per capita gross national product is nearly four times higher than the average GNP in Africa), blacks have a standard of living greatly inferior to that of whites. Furthermore, apartheid still influences people's ways of thinking. In this context, education and culture have become an essential factor of development for the country's blacks, and a vehicle of hope for the future. Yet more than a million children are not in school, and many young people are illiterate, as education is not strictly compulsory for blacks.

219. Many local organizations endeavour to assist black students who wish to attend university, to obtain a high-school diploma, or to reintegrate into society after prison. One of these organizations, which is supported by a member of IFTDH, publishes a non-racial newspaper, with a circulation of 35,000, for young people from 12 to 16 years of age. This is a tool for teachers in black schools. It helps students to improve their English and at the same time offers an approach to the problems of apartheid. It is also a tool for raising awareness in the developed countries.

C. Service Justice and Peace in Latin America

220. Regarding the struggle of Indian peoples, the organization exposes here concrete cases of violation of Indian peoples' rights on the American continent, reaffirming that its network continues to support in several countries the struggles of Indian peoples to achieve the total exercise of their rights. It communicates the following:

(a) The contamination of the environment and the destruction of the natural habitat of Indian peoples, including the Mexican project to build the Alto Balsas hydraulic dam that threatens the Navas communities, the forced reduction of sheep and cattle in Big Mountain, Arizona, and the uranium spill affecting the Navajo nation;

(b) The brutal and systematic repression and persecution to which various indigenous peoples are subjected by paramilitary bands;

(c) The exchange of external debt for "ecology", a new practice of ethnocide in the countries of concern to the organization, for example, the struggle of indigenous people for the Ache territory in Paraguay, which has been declared a reserve of the World Bank; the Honduras case, in which Mosquitia (declared the "Lung of Humanity") is threatened by transnational voracity; in the Amazonian territory of Ecuador the indigenous lands were first declared national parks and are now being delivered to transnational corporations;

(d) The free exercise of their political and ideological will by indigenous peoples on the continent has been prevented by the presence of alien and imposed religious sects which promote division in the indigenous communities and the rapid extinction of indigenous religions;

(e) In all of America, official languages are not the native ones which are in the process of being eliminated. Therefore, indigenous peoples are fighting to preserve their traditions and their genuine cultures.

221. The organization makes the following proposals:

(a) To create a political and alternative project that responds to cosmovision and Indian peoples' needs;

(b) To strengthen the unity process on the continent founded on identity-recovery movements which have been generated by a 500-year campaign of indigenous resistance;

(c) To campaign to divulge the role of transnational corporations, denouncing their harmfulness to indigenous peoples' culture, ecology and society.

D. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

222. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has continued its actions to combat racism and racial discrimination at both the international and national levels.

223. Internationally, it continues to serve as secretary of the NGO Subcommittee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Decolonization. Its international executive committee held a workshop on overcoming racism. Its representatives have attended and contributed to a number of international meetings and seminars. In conjunction with its 25th International Congress in Bolivia in July 1992, a three-day seminar of native women in the Americas will be held. It will deal with the issue of discrimination based on ethnicity and race. A two-day workshop on human rights will be held as part of the Congress and will deal with the forms and manifestations of racism. Different aspects of racism and racial discrimination and their elimination will come into other congress workshops, such as one on economics, on the United Nations and on international relations.

224. At the national level, all sections have had activities to combat racism. In the United States, workshops have been held on overcoming racism on a personal and community level; in Germany, support was given to migrant and refugee women and educational programmes were organized.

225. Continuing its activities in support of the goals of the Second United Nations Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the NGO Subcommittee held a number of meetings and consultations during 1991.

226. At a meeting in February, a representative of ANC spoke about developments in South Africa. A message, signed by members of the Subcommittee, was sent to the South African Government, calling for the speedy release of all political prisoners and expressing concern over reports in the media that the violence in the townships was supported, and even financed, by some white groups and forces. Members of the Subcommittee supported ANC's call for the continuation of sanctions until apartheid was totally dismantled.

227. The Subcommittee held a consultation with representatives of indigenous peoples on possible support to the indigenous peoples' activities in 1992 to mark the five-hundredth year of oppression and exploitation due to the European invasion of the Americas.

228. In the autumn, the Subcommittee devoted a one-day meeting to hear speakers on the re-emergence of racism in Europe.

229. The Subcommittee supports a major activity planned by indigenous peoples on 12 October 1992 in New York, as well as a number of other activities planned to open the United Nations International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

230. The Committee will also hold a seminar at the end of August in Geneva on the new forms and manifestations of racism and racial discrimination in Europe.

231. In view of the recrudescence of racist manifestations, of growing chauvinism, narrow nationalism and intolerance, leading all too often to violence and death, the Subcommittee calls on the United Nations General Assembly to declare a third decade for action to combat racism and racial discrimination, and to develop a strong plan of action with clear goals.



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1992/67
15 June 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1992
29 June-31 July 1992
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

COORDINATION QUESTIONS

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system

Prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and programmes addressed to the mitigation of its negative socio-economic consequences

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report discusses the challenges of the evolving human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic as it relates to a series of wide-ranging health and socio-economic issues, including prevention of transmission of HIV infection, demographic impact of the disease, effect on vulnerable populations and negative effects on women and their children. A range of agencies of the United Nations system are already involved with AIDS-related issues in response to this challenge. The coordination mechanisms that have evolved over the past five years are presented as well as the policies enacted and activities carried out by the United Nations system.

This report describes the prevention and control activities undertaken by the agencies and further indicates programmes aimed at the mitigation of negative social and economic effects. It concludes by enlisting key principles that should guide an effective response to the pandemic as well as recommendations for improving coordination among the partners of the United Nations system at the country and global levels.

It is generally agreed that prevention is the fundamental principle on which efforts to respond to the epidemic must be based.

* E/1992/100.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) pandemic has been increasingly recognized during the last several years as both a major health problem and a serious threat to social and economic development. The response of national Governments, international agencies, bilateral aid institutions and non-governmental organizations has grown substantially. Recognizing the need to coordinate action, particularly within the United Nations system, the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1992, on 7 February 1992 decided (decision 1992/204) that the coordination segment of the Council of 1992 should be devoted to the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related, *inter alia*, to prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and programmes addressed to the mitigation of its negative socio-economic consequences. The Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), requested the World Health Organization (WHO) to prepare the background document on that theme in consultation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system. The present report responds to that request. It incorporates information provided by 15 agencies and organizations of the United Nations system with respect to their policies and activities related to the prevention and control of AIDS and the mitigation of the social and economic consequences of HIV/AIDS. This input, together with the experience of WHO with the major substantive issues surrounding the AIDS pandemic, provides the basis for this report.

I. THE CHALLENGE OF THE EVOLVING PANDEMIC

2. The global pandemic of AIDS has evolved over the last 10 years into a major threat to the health, development and economic and political stability of nations around the world. Transmitted predominantly through sexual intercourse, AIDS, like other sexually transmitted diseases, can also be transmitted by blood and blood products and from mother to child. First recognized in five individuals in 1981, the causal agent, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), remained undiscovered until 1983. World-wide mobilization to combat the disease, under the aegis of WHO, did not begin until 1986. WHO estimated as of early 1992 that at least 10-12 million men, women and children worldwide had become infected with HIV since the start of the pandemic. Some 2 million had gone on to develop AIDS, which occurs up to 10 years on average after initial infection with the virus. WHO estimates that by the year 2000 a cumulative total of 30-40 million men, women and children will have been infected, and 12-18 million will have developed AIDS. Nearly 90 per cent of these projected HIV infections and AIDS cases will occur in developing countries. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, up to 10 million children will be orphaned by the year 2000 as their mothers, or both parents, die of AIDS. Furthermore, the incidence of other infections linked to depression of immune status in HIV-infected persons is greatly increasing. In some areas, 50 per cent of HIV-infected persons have tuberculosis, and this points to a veritable tuberculosis epidemic within the AIDS pandemic.

3. In the countries that have been hardest hit, not only is HIV/AIDS having a direct impact on health status, health services and health systems, but it will impact as well on the social and economic development of countries over the medium-to-long term. The multidimensional nature of AIDS demands a multisectoral response, directed first and foremost at prevention of HIV infection. There is an unprecedented imperative for coordinated action and mutually reinforcing strategies to which a broad range of Governments, organizations and community groups must contribute. Reasons for this include:

(a) The demographic impact of AIDS. Mortality rates of children under five are rising in many countries because of perinatal transmission of HIV/AIDS, making the achievement of child health goals adopted by the 1990 World Summit for Children even more difficult than originally envisaged. Furthermore, in some developing countries, where one third of sexually active adults are infected in many urban areas, there has been a threefold increase in adult mortality among those within the most productive sector of the population, namely, persons aged 25-49;

(b) The disproportionate effect of HIV/AIDS among more vulnerable populations, namely, those already burdened by poverty, lack of opportunity and limited access to basic services. Many of the countries most affected by AIDS are among the poorest, the most burdened by debt and implementation of economic adjustment policies, and the most disrupted by natural disasters, civil strife and endemic diseases;

(c) The lack of vaccine or cure. Life-prolonging therapies against HIV-related illnesses are increasingly available but remain beyond the reach of developing countries. A number of vaccines are under development but the chances of having a preventive vaccine by the end of the decade are modest at best;

(d) The need to change fundamental behaviours and practices. HIV infection often occurs among persons who have unprotected sexual intercourse with multiple partners; persons who indulge in other high-risk behaviour, such as injecting drug use; and persons whose social situation (involving such factors as poverty, social status, cultural norms and lack of opportunity) often makes them unable or unwilling to change their behaviour;

(e) The growing, deleterious impact of HIV/AIDS on women, whose risk of becoming HIV-infected is heightened in part by relatively low social status, gender-related factors and biological vulnerabilities;

(f) Widespread complacency, denial and fatalism concerning the pandemic's current and anticipated magnitude, which present formidable obstacles to the development of control efforts;

(g) Discrimination against persons with HIV/AIDS, stemming from the stigma attached to sexually transmitted diseases, misunderstanding about how HIV is transmitted, the tendency of HIV/AIDS to occur in marginalized groups and fear of the deadly nature of the disease.

4. The United Nations system - with its wide range of agencies that have expertise in almost every sector of economic and social development - is well placed to respond to the pandemic both comprehensively and effectively.

5. A range of agencies of the United Nations system are already involved with AIDS-related issues at a variety of levels. Greater involvement and coordination is necessary, however, to meet the unprecedented challenge of the AIDS pandemic. The United Nations system response to HIV/AIDS has to be unified, with each member of the system contributing appropriate, mutually reinforcing resources and expertise. Together, all parts of the system must recognize and respond to the major programming challenge of AIDS - to act as rapidly as possible using what is currently known while simultaneously collaborating on the development of new, innovative and more effective strategies and approaches.

6. First and foremost, coordination policies and mechanisms must lead to activities that stem the transmission of HIV/AIDS, thereby preventing further infection and disease and/or mitigating its consequences on both individuals and societies. Long-term control of AIDS will also be facilitated by activities that reduce the contribution of the socio-economic factors that cause ill health, for example, poverty and underdevelopment. Given the current state of knowledge and the rapid evolution of the AIDS pandemic, these efforts must include further behavioural and biomedical research as well as activities that apply what has already been learned about prevention, care and the multifaceted consequences of the disease.

II. THE EVOLUTION OF AIDS-RELATED COORDINATION MECHANISMS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

7. In resolution 42/8 of 26 October 1987, the General Assembly, recognizing the established leadership and the essential global directing and coordinating role of the World Health Organization in AIDS prevention, control and education, confirmed that WHO should continue to direct and coordinate the urgent global battle against AIDS. The Assembly urged all appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, bilateral and multilateral agencies and non-governmental and voluntary organizations, in conformity with the Global Strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS (hereinafter referred to as the Global AIDS Strategy), to support the world-wide struggle against AIDS and requested the Secretary-General to ensure, in close cooperation with the Director-General of WHO and through the appropriate existing mechanisms, a coordinated response by the United Nations system to the AIDS pandemic.

8. WHO formed its Control Programme on AIDS in 1986, within the organization's Division for Communicable Diseases. Within six months the number of Programme staff had grown from 2 to 29 and in February 1987 the Control Programme was given the status of a WHO Special Programme. In 1988 the Special Programme on AIDS was renamed the WHO Global Programme on AIDS (WHO/GPA) and was charged with implementing the Global AIDS Strategy and coordinating the world-wide response to the AIDS pandemic.

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9. The earliest formal mechanism to coordinate the global response to AIDS was the meeting of participating parties for AIDS prevention and control convened by WHO in April 1986. This group then met twice a year up to April 1988, bringing together representatives of donor Governments and developing countries as well as members of the United Nations system. From November 1988, these meetings were superseded by those of the WHO/GPA Global Management Committee (GMC), where United Nations membership was increased to include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and the World Bank. Membership also included all donor Governments contributing to WHO/GPA, 12 countries designated by the six WHO regional committees, the Commission of the European Communities and the Chairman of the Global Commission on AIDS. Up to November 1991 GMC met biannually to review the financial status of the Programme, as well as to approve the budget and monitor its implementation. In 1991 GMC completed an external review of the Programme's activities, reviewed the update of the Global AIDS Strategy and endorsed WHO/GPA's research agenda.

10. Also, in response to General Assembly resolution 42/8, the Secretary-General established the United Nations Steering Committee to coordinate United Nations Headquarters activities in support of the Global AIDS Strategy. The Steering Committee (convened annually by the Under-Secretary-General in the former Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and since 1 March 1992, by the Under-Secretary-General in the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat who was also appointed AIDS focal point for the United Nations) met first in February 1988 and set up a Standing Committee of United Nations AIDS Focal Points in New York to help monitor and coordinate implementation of the Steering Committee's decisions and to develop ideas on further activities by United Nations organizations for consideration by the Steering Committee. The Standing Committee is convened by UNDP and comprises focal points and liaison officers of participating United Nations organizations and offices in New York.

11. A further step forward in United Nations system coordination was the formation of the Inter-Agency Advisory Group on AIDS (IAAG), which was established by WHO and met for the first time in September 1988. IAAG is convened by WHO and its membership is open to all United Nations system organizations. The Group meets annually and its terms of reference are: (a) to serve as a forum for United Nations system-wide exchange of information about HIV/AIDS, (b) to identify possible joint activities and (c) to develop links among AIDS-related programme activities. A number of those activities are summarized in section III.

III. THE COORDINATION OF HIV/AIDS-RELATED POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Policies

12. Alongside of the development of the coordinating bodies, several United Nations organizations were formulating policies and guidelines for support to AIDS-related activities. The Global AIDS Strategy, first elaborated in 1986 by WHO, served as the basic framework for those policies.

13. The Global AIDS Strategy has three main objectives: (a) to prevent infection with HIV, (b) to reduce the personal and social impact of HIV infection and (c) to mobilize and unify national and international efforts against AIDS. It was endorsed by the World Health Assembly in May 1987 and by the General Assembly (in its resolution 42/8) in October of that year.

14. The Global AIDS Strategy was updated in 1991. While retaining its three original objectives, the revised Global AIDS Strategy reflects the evolving response to the pandemic through the following approaches: increased emphasis on health care, more effective treatment for other sexually transmitted diseases, increased attention to the special vulnerability to HIV infection of women and their offspring, provision of a more supportive social environment for AIDS prevention, planning for the socio-economic impact of the pandemic and greater focus on overcoming stigmatization and discrimination. The updated strategy was consequently endorsed by the 7th meeting of the WHO/GPA Global Management Committee in November 1991, by the eighty-ninth session of the WHO Executive Board in January 1992 and by the Forty-fifth World Health Assembly in May 1992 (resolution WHA45.35). The updated Global AIDS Strategy will be made available by the Director-General of WHO on the implementation of the Global Strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS.

15. UNDP has been active in strengthening national capacity for HIV policy and programme development since 1986. In 1988, WHO and UNDP entered into an Alliance to Combat AIDS (officially established in 1988), in order to bring together the strengths of WHO as the international leader in health and the strengths of UNDP in social and economic development. The Alliance has been an essential tool for ensuring coordinated support at the country level to national AIDS programmes, particularly in Africa. In the period 1988-1989, WHO organized workshops for representatives of ministries of health, UNDP resident representatives and WHO country representatives to ensure full understanding of the Alliance and to outline collaborative action for its implementation in each country. Operational guidelines for the Alliance were reviewed and modified in 1992, in light of policy changes in UNDP.

16. Furthermore, a report of the Administrator on the role of UNDP in combating HIV/AIDS: policy framework for the response of UNDP to HIV/AIDS (DP/1991/57), which clarified UNDP's responsibilities with respect to the pandemic within its area of competence and comparative expertise, was presented to the UNDP Governing Council at its thirty-eighth session, held in

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June 1991. The framework established a set of guiding principles and specific mandates for policy development, including increasing understanding of the development implications of the AIDS pandemic, support of community-based programmes and programmes for women and strengthening of national capacity to minimize adverse effects of the pandemic. In its decision 91/9, the Governing Council noted the policy framework and invited the Administrator to continue to intensify his efforts to lessen the negative impact of the pandemic on development within the framework of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS and the WHO/UNDP Alliance to Combat AIDS and in fullest collaboration with the other agencies and organs of the United Nations system and other relevant organizations and institutions. In 1992, the Governing Council, in another decision on HIV/AIDS (see document DP/1992/L.13/Add.10), urged UNDP to continue and further strengthen collaboration with WHO and emphasized the need for complementary action by UNDP and its partners in the United Nations development system.

17. UNESCO, at the twenty-fourth session of its General Conference in October 1987, adopted a Plan of Action in the field of education for the prevention of AIDS. In 1988, UNFPA issued guidelines to identify the types of AIDS-related activities that it would consider for support; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) issued guidelines regarding refugee protection and AIDS, including preventive health care, counselling and screening; and a consensus statement on AIDS and the workplace emerged from an International Labour Organisation (ILO)/WHO consultation on this issue.

18. Also in 1988, UNICEF submitted the first policy review on AIDS prevention to its Executive Board. This was followed by a joint WHO/UNICEF statement in January 1989 on early immunization for HIV-infected children and a decision by the UNICEF Executive Board in 1990 to establish an interregional fund to both support AIDS prevention activities and address the impact of AIDS on women and children. In 1992, UNICEF submitted a report on its programme approach for HIV/AIDS to its Executive Board.

B. Activities

19. The United Nations system's activities, whether implemented solely by one agency or coordinated with several agencies according to their particular expertise, are consistent with the principles and guidelines laid out in the Global AIDS Strategy. Based on information from IAAG members, annual reports of these activities have been submitted to the Economic and Social Council by the Director-General of WHO since 1987. Activities undertaken in 1991 are contained in document A/47/___-E/1992/68, entitled "Report of the Director-General of WHO on the implementation of the Global Strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS". The following paragraphs describe several general areas in which more than one agency is involved, including individual as well as joint efforts. Activities fall into any of three general categories: (a) HIV/AIDS prevention, (b) reduction of the social and personal impact of HIV/AIDS and (c) reduction and mitigation of the social and economic consequences of HIV/AIDS.

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HIV/AIDS prevention

20. Prevention is the fundamental principle in combating HIV/AIDS. Methods of proven efficacy exist to reduce transmission through each of the three main routes, namely, sexual intercourse, blood and blood products, and that from mother to foetus or infant.

Prevention of sexual transmission of HIV

21. HIV is spread primarily through sexual intercourse. The United Nations system is supporting action in three main areas: (a) information and education to encourage safer sexual behaviour, (b) community-based behavioural change strategies and (c) improved health and social services to treat HIV/AIDS as well as other sexually transmitted diseases.

22. Information and education activities concerning how to avoid acquiring or transmitting HIV focus on three main groups (young people, high-risk groups and the general public) and have three main goals, namely, changing behaviour, disseminating knowledge and imparting skills.

23. Several United Nations system agencies are working to reduce HIV transmission among young people. The development of school-based interventions has been spearheaded by WHO and UNESCO, which have collaborated on several pilot projects involving school AIDS education. WHO and UNESCO have also collaborated in producing a guide for school health education. While also interested in school-based initiatives, UNICEF is focusing attention on other categories of youth, for example, members of youth organizations, difficult-to-reach youth and out-of-school youth. AIDS prevention education for these groups is a major thrust of UNICEF-supported activities at the country level. UNFPA is supporting the integration of AIDS prevention education into in-school and out-of-school programming aimed at young people.

24. Groups with high-risk behaviours for sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS include men who have sexual intercourse with men, sex workers and their clients, injecting drug users and persons with other sexually transmitted diseases. WHO, which is particularly active in this area, is, for example, currently testing a guide on research and assessment of needs among high-risk groups and has completed a number of reviews documenting the impact of specific interventions in such groups. WHO is also producing guides for AIDS prevention and control activities among men who have sexual intercourse with men and among injecting drug users. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) plans to set up an informal interorganizational committee (in collaboration with WHO and other interested groups) to address HIV transmission through injecting drug use in a more comprehensive manner. The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna is particularly interested in programmes for drug users and HIV-positive prisoners.

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25. Since it is often difficult to identify and target those groups with high-risk behaviours, efforts to educate the general public are essential to HIV/AIDS prevention. United Nations agency support in this area takes many forms and spans a wide range of issues and settings. First, many agencies support the inclusion of AIDS prevention messages in ongoing activities, for example, UNFPA in family planning services and UNICEF in street children initiatives. Other agencies are either developing new materials or improving those that exist. For example, WHO is both preparing guides on condom promotion and reviewing the effectiveness of education activities developed thus far, especially in the area of social marketing. The Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna is stressing the need to ensure that AIDS education and information are gender-sensitive and that they take into account the specific needs, concerns and values of women and girls.

26. Health and social services are another key element in the prevention of sexual transmission. Diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) are particularly important since such diseases, if left untreated, greatly increase the risk of HIV infection. To date, a number of different agencies have supported activities in this area. For example, the World Bank and WHO have collaborated in the development of a rapid assessment procedure to determine the prevalence of common sexually transmitted diseases in a community. While those activities are continuing, WHO is also organizing a meeting of donor agencies to assess STD drug needs in developing countries, develop a coordinated approach to sustaining STD drug availability and promote the involvement of a wide range of donor agencies and international organizations in this effort.

27. Improved treatment of other diseases is also essential. For instance, in response to alarming increases in HIV-related tuberculosis, WHO is supporting studies on the relation between tuberculosis and HIV infection and on cost-effective means to prevent and treat tuberculosis in HIV-infected persons. WHO is also expanding its Global Tuberculosis Programme to accelerate progress and coordinate activities already under way. WHO is working closely with the World Bank as it increases loans and other resources available to national tuberculosis control efforts.

28. Condoms have been shown to provide effective protection against transmission of HIV. Inter-agency dialogue on improved condom supply and distribution began in February 1990 at a formal consultation convened by WHO, in which representatives from the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), UNFPA, UNICEF, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank participated. Since then five further meetings have been convened, involving additional participation from UNDP, the Commission of the European Communities and bilateral aid agencies. Those meetings have improved understanding of the complexity of effective condom-related interventions and of the challenge that the explosive growth in demand for condoms poses for the coordination of scarce technical and financial resources. Condom promotion and supply are now part of a global initiative on contraceptive requirements and logistics management needs in

developing countries, coordinated by UNFPA. Other agencies are also interested in this area, for example, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which is planning to assist condom manufacture in some countries.

Prevention of blood-borne transmission of HIV

29. HIV transmission through blood transfusions can be prevented by the rational use of safe blood and blood products. The WHO Global Blood Safety Initiative, in which the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies participates, serves as the main coordinating mechanism for efforts to prevent blood-borne transmission of HIV. UNDP has provided financial support to the initiative since its inception in 1987. The World Bank is also involved in this area, primarily assisting in the purchase of laboratory equipment to improve blood-screening processes.

30. Drug injectors acquire and transmit HIV through the sharing of unsterilized needles and other injection equipment, as well as through sexual intercourse. Activities supported by the United Nations system to reduce transmission in this way are outlined above (see para. 24).

Prevention of perinatal transmission of HIV

31. As heterosexual transmission of HIV becomes the predominant mode of transmission in most countries, there is a corresponding increase in the number of infants being infected with HIV from their mother. While recognizing that the best strategy for preventing such transmission is to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV to women, United Nations agencies are also supporting research and selected interventions to reduce transmission from mother to child. WHO is continuing to support activities in this area, including the identification of research priorities to prevent perinatal transmission, studies on different routes of such transmission and, in collaboration with UNICEF, an experts meeting to consider the results of recent studies on HIV transmission through breast-feeding. Research on the relationship between HIV transmission and breast-feeding continues and will be expanded in line with recommendations from the experts meeting.

Coordination of research related to prevention

32. Given the rapid evolution of the pandemic, intensified, well-coordinated research is needed in many areas, including those involving the determinants of behavioural change, the biomedical aspects of the disease and the development of drugs and vaccines. Much of that research has potential implications for the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

33. In research efforts related to HIV prevention and control, several agencies of the United Nations system have focused on behavioural change. WHO is sponsoring research to assess the effectiveness of interventions to prevent AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. WHO has also established a GPA Steering Committee on Social and Behavioural Research that identifies both

research priorities and scientists/institutions able to pursue them, reviews research proposals, monitors and evaluates their progress and suggests approaches for the wide dissemination of results. The Steering Committee has identified three main areas for social and behavioural research: coping with HIV/AIDS, determinants of sexual behaviour and social and behavioural issues related to biomedical research and treatment. Research into coping will assess ways in which individuals, communities and health-care systems respond to HIV/AIDS. Research into the determinants of sexual behaviour aims to assess the viability of different interventions and will include study of the impact of the female condom on women's ability to protect themselves from HIV infection. In the area of biomedical research and treatment, the priority focus will be on social and behavioural issues in vaccine trials. UNDP, in collaboration with a group of non-governmental organizations, is holding a series of regional consultations on the role of communities in encouraging behavioural change. UNICEF is engaged in developing community-based risk assessment and prevention methodologies that can be used by country offices. The World Bank is supporting a study on community-based prevention strategies in Africa, emphasizing changes in attitudes and behaviour. The Division for the Advancement of Women is supporting operational research on interventions to reduce the burden of the disease on women.

34. The WHO/GPA Steering Committee on Clinical Research and Drug Development has set research priorities, worked out a strategy for development of drugs for treatment of HIV and HIV-related diseases and agreed on criteria for selecting drugs for clinical trials in developing countries. A comprehensive strategy for AIDS vaccine development, coordinated by the WHO/GPA Steering Committee on Vaccine Development, specifies tasks in formulating, testing and eventually ensuring availability of HIV vaccines. It is designed to maximize involvement of a broad range of agencies and institutions in vaccine-related research. Vaccine trial sites are under development in four developing countries with support from WHO.

Reducing the social and personal impact of HIV/AIDS

35. The United Nations system's efforts to reduce the social and personal impact of HIV/AIDS are based on two interrelated strategies. Firstly, agencies are working to improve the scope and quality of services available to persons with HIV/AIDS, as well as to meet expected increased demand for those services. Secondly, agency programmes are aiming to improve the coping capacity of persons with HIV/AIDS and of their families.

36. The provision of health care to persons with HIV/AIDS, and support to their families and communities, are becoming increasingly important because of the growing numbers of HIV-infected persons and the burden they place on health-care systems of developing countries. Agencies of the United Nations system focus efforts on the groups and activities most closely related to their mandates. Given its special responsibility for health, WHO is spearheading many initiatives related to improved health care for persons with HIV/AIDS. Major areas of activity include planning and strengthening of

health-care systems, clinical care and management of people with HIV/AIDS, counselling, and strategies for expanded home and community care. The World Bank is also assisting efforts to improve counselling and clinical care for persons with HIV/AIDS. WHO, UNDP, UNICEF and other agencies of the United Nations system are supporting efforts of non-governmental organizations to improve health-care services and explore alternative home- and community-based delivery systems. In addition, the secretariat for the International Year of the Family, within the United Nations Office at Vienna, is collaborating with WHO on a publication entitled "AIDS and the Family" in order to ensure that this important issue is addressed during the International Year of the Family in 1994. The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna is developing guidelines for institutional and clinical management of prisoners with HIV/AIDS, in collaboration with WHO, the Centre for Human Rights and UNDCP.

37. UNDP is developing innovative approaches, strategies and programmes to strengthen the coping capacity of HIV/AIDS-affected individuals, families, communities, the private sector and Governments, by both exploring financing mechanisms to lessen the social and economic impact of the disease and strengthening existing networks of non-governmental organizations and other institutions.

38. One of the more formidable challenges of the AIDS pandemic is its disproportionate impact on poor and vulnerable populations. The provision of health and social services must therefore also strive to reach these groups. For example, the World Food Programme (WFP) offers food aid to programmes aimed at improving the education and employment opportunities of people who have HIV/AIDS or belong to vulnerable groups. WFP projects include provision of food assistance to poor sectors of the population that are nutritionally at risk. While WFP prefers not to single out persons with AIDS or their families, the poor and nutritionally-at-risk groups increasingly include those persons and their families. UNHCR cooperates with ministries of health in providing AIDS prevention and control services among refugee populations. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has worked out a plan of action on HIV/AIDS for the Palestinian refugee population of Gaza and the West Bank.

39. Agencies of the United Nations system are also supporting activities to reduce the risk of transmission related to people's occupations, either by improving work conditions or changing people's behaviour. ILO supports initiatives on the possible impact of the pandemic on the rights and welfare of workers and has pioneered workplace-based AIDS information and education. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is concerned with matters that affect seafarers, such as unnecessary HIV screening of ships' crews and passengers. At recent meetings of the IMO strong recommendations have been made against such screening. WHO is promoting universal precautions for laboratory personnel and health-care workers, especially those handling blood or carrying out skin-piercing, surgical and other invasive procedures. This initiative involves extensive training of health workers, including

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traditional practitioners and birth attendants, and the prioritized allocation of the necessary protective supplies and equipment.

40. During the past few years, the impact of AIDS on women has increased dramatically. WHO is developing a comprehensive strategy on women and AIDS. In preparing the strategy, WHO is soliciting the input of several other agencies and organizations of the United Nations system including UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and the Division for the Advancement of Women, all of which provide extensive support to programmes aimed at lessening the personal, social and economic burden of HIV/AIDS on women. A wide range of United Nations system and other organizations will be consulted during the further development of the strategy and in the monitoring of its implementation.

41. WHO has stressed the prevention of HIV transmission to and from women, with support for development of the female condom and of vaginal virucides and for studies on perinatal transmission. WHO is reviewing ongoing HIV/AIDS home care programmes, which feature women as care givers, with a view to improving future efforts. A rapid assessment method for collecting women's views on HIV/AIDS is being tested, with the aim of helping countries develop strategies for AIDS prevention among women. WHO, along with other agencies of the United Nations system, is cooperating with several international women's organizations in promoting AIDS awareness among women. UNDP has given priority to ensuring that prevention, care and treatment programmes are available for women.

42. United Nations agencies are also involved in efforts to eliminate discrimination against persons with HIV/AIDS. The Centre for Human Rights is coordinating a study on this subject under the aegis of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in collaboration with WHO and other agencies of the United Nations system. WHO is monitoring immigration and other legislation affecting persons with HIV/AIDS and their families. UNDP is promoting and strengthening legal networks to address the legal, ethical and human rights issues raised by the epidemic. Throughout the United Nations system, non-discrimination is promoted as both a human rights imperative and a technically sound strategy for ensuring that infected persons are not driven underground, where they are inaccessible to education programmes and unavailable as credible bearers of AIDS prevention messages to their peers.

Reduction and mitigation of social and economic consequences

43. The social and economic consequences of AIDS for society at large are already enormous in many countries and are bound to grow significantly in the years ahead. The direct and indirect economic costs of AIDS entail vastly increased spending on health care; drain on health-care resources, including hospitals, drugs and staff; decimation of the workforce (loss of production and productivity in all sectors of the economy, including women's labour in and outside the home); loss of investment in the training of skilled labour and educated professionals; loss of consumers and purchasing power; and loss of tourist revenues. In the developing countries, social disintegration may

well occur and even political turmoil is possible. AIDS orphans will swell the ranks of street children, already estimated at 100 million, thereby increasing the numbers of young people vulnerable to infection with HIV.

44. The AIDS pandemic thus threatens the very fabric of society. All sectors of the economy, private as well as public, and nations everywhere must help bring the pandemic under control. Four kinds of approach are required: assessments of the present situation and future projections, development of appropriate policies, action to cope with the consequences and mobilization and allocation of resources.

Assessments of the situation

45. To ensure that planning proceeds on a solid foundation, accurate assessments of the pandemic's impact on different groups, communities and sectors of society are essential. Several agencies of the United Nations system are supporting such assessments. Some are focusing on the impact of the AIDS pandemic on specific groups, usually through rapid assessment procedures or operational research. WHO and the World Bank, for example, are cooperating in an assessment of the AIDS situation in the United Republic of Tanzania with the aim of providing improved information on which to base decisions about the allocation of resources at the local level. The World Bank is supporting a study on the impact of AIDS on the household, including the effect on productivity and the cost of treating a case of AIDS in relation to household finances. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has studied the effect of AIDS on farming communities, particularly in terms of labour shortages. The United Nations University is developing a standard methodology for rapid assessments, which will be issued in 1992.

46. More general assessments of the pandemic's socio-economic impact are also under way. UNDP is supporting country-level workshops to focus on the human, social and economic development implications of the epidemic. The World Bank is engaged in major studies in the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda of the potential socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS on key economic sectors. The World Bank has also developed a methodology for estimating the demographic impact of AIDS on sub-Saharan Africa and is preparing an analysis entitled "The macro-economic impact of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa". The Department for Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat has collaborated with WHO and UNFPA on producing a publication on the demographic consequences of AIDS and is seeking the cooperation of other organizations on a comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic impact of AIDS in developing countries. During the next two years, the Department of Economic and Social Development plans to study the expected mortality effects of the AIDS pandemic and prepare a database of country-level policies and other resources to respond to the epidemic. Data on AIDS will also be included in two major United Nations publications: The 1993 Report on the World Social Situation and Socio-economic Perspectives to the Year 2000.

Policy development

47. Given their wide range of expertise, agencies of the United Nations system can contribute substantially to the development of national policies designed to mitigate the social and economic consequences of AIDS. In countries with a low prevalence of AIDS, highest priority is given to policies that will help prevent HIV transmission; in settings of higher prevalence, dealing with the multifaceted impacts of the disease becomes more important. In all countries, sound sectoral planning and intersectoral coordination are key issues for national AIDS programmes. UNDP, with its particular expertise in human development, has been instrumental in assisting countries to establish multisectoral and integrated programmes to respond to the epidemic.

48. Assistance in policy formulation is needed in at least three areas. First, national AIDS programmes need help in formulating technical policies, for example, strategies for reinforcing health-care systems, developing cost-effective diagnostic procedures and reducing high-risk behaviours among specific groups including sex workers and injecting drug users. As suggested above, the United Nations system has already amassed considerable knowledge and experience in these areas.

49. Second, Governments need advice on such key socio-economic issues as estimating costs of the epidemic, adjusting human resource requirements and revising demographic and financial projections. Agencies of the United Nations system are now giving more attention to these areas and are supporting a growing number of activities (see paras. 45-46).

50. Third, the United Nations system will be looked to for guidance and leadership in other essential but less charted policy areas involving, inter alia, ways to overcome national and global denial and complacency about the pandemic; arguments to counter stigmatization and discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS; support for greater involvement of non-governmental and community-based organizations; and techniques to create and sustain a broad, multisectoral response to the most serious epidemic of this century. While a number of activities are under way (see paras. 19-42), concerted efforts are needed to create a supportive environment in which those activities can be implemented and sustained.

Action to cope with consequences

51. As the assessments described in paragraph 43 suggest, the socio-economic consequences of AIDS are devastating. Within the framework of the Global AIDS Strategy, and through the coordination of WHO, the United Nations system is beginning to undertake efforts to help national Governments cope with those consequences.

52. Among the most serious social consequences of the pandemic are the disruption of family structures, greatly increased numbers of orphans and unprecedented mortality levels among key age groups, for example, adults between 14 and 45 years. WHO is helping Governments develop affordable

systems of care and family support, and UNICEF is increasing assistance to services for orphans, families and communities affected by AIDS. Strengthening community support mechanisms is, in fact, a priority for several organizations, including UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank and WHO. WHO is leading efforts to reinforce health systems and prepare them to withstand the strain of increased, long-term demands for care and counselling.

53. The economic consequences are equally alarming. These include direct care costs (as the number of HIV-infected persons developing AIDS steadily increases) as well as more indirect effects, for example, costs associated with loss of income and decreases in productivity of the workforce. UNDP is devoting attention to building national capacity to analyse and respond to the economic implications of the epidemic. Priority is being given, *inter alia*, to integrating national HIV/AIDS plans into overall national development policies. The World Bank is assisting efforts to analyse and respond to the health-care costs associated with HIV/AIDS (for example, in India and the United Republic of Tanzania) as well as to the impact of AIDS on the industrial sector; FAO is helping to counteract negative consequences on agricultural production, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. More will certainly need to be done in these areas in the years ahead.

Mobilizing resources

54. The enormous growth in the external financial resources needed globally for AIDS prevention and care is due to the growing number of countries affected by the pandemic, the increasing prevalence of infection within each country, the increasing burden of ill health among HIV-infected persons as they progress towards AIDS and the indirect costs to key sectors of the economy. Those costs can be expected only to increase further in the coming years.

55. At present, the medium-term plan of the national AIDS programmes is the central mechanism for mobilizing resources at the country level. The WHO Trust Fund for the Global Programme on AIDS has served as one mechanism for attracting international contributions from donor agencies. Some agencies have provided resources directly to countries. As the pandemic spreads and the activities of organizations both within and outside the United Nations system expand, funding mechanisms are also evolving. During this process it is essential to preserve the principles of coordination and optimal complementarity of funding.

56. WHO estimates that in 1990 alone US\$ 965 million was required for the prevention activities of national AIDS programmes. Annual costs will increase significantly by the year 2000, especially to meet prevention, care and socio-economic needs. Meeting these requirements will take a concerted - and intensified - commitment of resources from national Governments, donor agencies and international organizations. The resource gap between what is needed and what is available will no doubt increase annually. Urgent consideration must be given to ways to increase the total amount of resources available as well as use existing resources more efficiently.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

57. Under the leadership of WHO, the United Nations system has worked since 1987 to coordinate its policies and programmes related to HIV/AIDS. A framework has been established, policies have been formulated and activities have been initiated, promoting global, regional and national responses to the epidemic. The bodies that currently exist have been established to meet this unprecedented challenge. The rapid spread and the evolving nature of the pandemic make it necessary to examine these mechanisms periodically as more is learned and activities of individual agencies expand. It will be important that the mechanisms are modified as appropriate, in the light of the myriad activities now under way and the increasingly formidable challenge HIV/AIDS poses both to the United Nations system and to the world at large during this decade and beyond.

58. Much has already been achieved in the past five years. Almost all Governments have established national AIDS programmes, many of which have adopted a multisectoral approach to the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. In support of this approach, and to encourage it further, agencies of the United Nations system have coordinated their efforts in many areas and in unprecedented ways, linking with national mechanisms to meet the specific needs of country programmes.

59. AIDS has demonstrated conclusively the close interconnection between the state of the economy and the state of people's health. United Nations coordination must reflect this new paradigm in which health status is inextricably linked to development in other sectors. The far-reaching implications of the epidemic have, in any case, made strict categorization of responsibilities and actions according to sectors and agencies of the United Nations system difficult if not impossible. The need to integrate health, social, human rights and economic responses across many sectors and the need for the United Nations system to mount a comprehensive and coordinated response are clear.

60. An effective response depends on four key principles. Specifically:

(a) All agencies should respond within their particular areas of expertise, including the coordination of activities within their sectors;

(b) All agencies should develop the capacity to work intersectorally in areas related to HIV/AIDS;

(c) All activities should fall within an overall global framework;

(d) Effective leadership and coordination with respect to these efforts must occur at the global and national levels.

61. In the preceding sections of the present report some of the many activities already under way have been described. In some areas, (for example, education to prevent sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS), activities are

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being carried out simultaneously by all agencies; other issues (for example, clinical management of persons with HIV/AIDS) are the particular concern of a few more specialized organizations. Almost all areas of activity, however, require collaboration in one form or another.

62. The Global AIDS Strategy provides the overall policy framework for such collaboration and guides the work of both individual organizations and inter-agency groups. It is also the basis on which national AIDS strategies are developed. The role of WHO/GPA is to provide leadership and technical guidance in the promotion - and implementation - of this Strategy throughout the United Nations system. In fulfilling this role, WHO gives priority to policy formulation, programme planning, advocacy, dissemination of information, development of interventions, socio-behavioural and biomedical research, epidemiological surveillance and forecasting of the epidemic's demographic, social and economic impact. WHO views its leadership role primarily as a responsibility to ensure that what needs to be done is done. To achieve this, WHO promotes and facilitates the activities of other United Nations partners in their areas of comparative advantage and expertise.

Country-level coordination

63. National AIDS programmes are the principal coordinating mechanisms for AIDS activity at the country level. All external support should conform to the medium-term plans developed by those programmes and reinforce the approaches and strategies adopted therein.

64. The WHO/UNDP Alliance to Combat AIDS provides the framework to coordinate external support to national AIDS programmes. The Alliance combines the strength of WHO as the directing and coordinating authority in international health work, including health policy formulation, as well as in scientific and technical matters relating to health, and of UNDP as the central funding and coordinating mechanism for United Nations system operational activities in the field. It also encourages and facilitates the contribution of all other agencies in the United Nations system. In doing so, the Alliance calls upon UNDP to ensure a multisectoral response and upon WHO to provide policy input to all sectors and ensure the technical consistency of all activities, including those dealing with socio-economic consequences.

65. To strengthen and improve coordination at the country level, it is recommended:

(a) That the principal coordinating mechanism for all AIDS activities be the national AIDS programme;

(b) That agencies of the United Nations system strengthen national capacity to fulfil this role, including the coordination of partners in the private sector, non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations and bilateral agencies;

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(c) That the medium-term plan of the national AIDS programme provide the framework for coordinating external support to the programme.

Global-level coordination

66. The WHO lead agency role is carried out in the context of close consultation with other United Nations system organizations. Existing formal mechanisms of coordination have served the AIDS effort well and could, with proper reinforcement and strengthening, play an even greater role in ensuring smooth and effective coordination related to the pandemic.

67. The main purpose of the Inter-Agency Advisory Group on AIDS (described in para. 11) is to ensure United Nations system coordination in AIDS-related areas, and it has served this function well. Given the rapid expansion of interest and activities related to AIDS, however, there is also need for a more inclusive consultative mechanism for agencies of the United Nations system, bilateral donors and international non-governmental organization AIDS networks, as well as developing country interests. To be effective, such a mechanism must be based on joint commitment to a common set of principles and fundamental respect for the contributions of all organizations. It should also facilitate mutually supportive action by individual agencies (or groups of agencies) and country-level implementation of global agreements. Different options for the establishment of such a mechanism was scheduled for discussion by the WHO/GPA Management Committee in June 1992.

68. To strengthen and improve coordination at the global level, it is recommended:

(a) That all coordination of agencies of the United Nations system take place within the framework of the Global AIDS Strategy;

(b) That the role of WHO as lead agency for AIDS prevention and control be reaffirmed, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/8 and in view of the growing need for leadership of and technical consistency in AIDS activities at all levels;

(c) That agencies of the United Nations system give greater priority to AIDS-related activities and take more initiative in complementary and joint programming;

(d) That overall mechanisms for the global coordination of AIDS efforts be strengthened, including IAAG as principal coordinating body for the United Nations system, and that mechanisms be established to ensure political commitment, information exchange, discussion of common concerns, coordination of operational activities, policy and programmatic consensus and effective mobilization/allocation of resources among agencies and organizations within and outside the United Nations system.

69. In implementing these recommendations, efforts must be made to ensure that activities to improve United Nations coordination in AIDS prevention and control first and foremost meet the expanding needs of the pandemic. During the next several years increasing numbers of individuals, communities and countries will be affected by this disease. There is a compelling need to work together more closely than ever before - at all levels - to prevent further spread of HIV infection as well as enable countries to cope with the multifaceted consequences of HIV/AIDS. The challenge facing the United Nations system, as well as the world at large, is all too clear. Meeting that challenge require unprecedented levels of commitment, creativity and determination now and in the years to come.
